

New age therapies
... cure or con?
Page 17

Marathon man runs to raise £1 million
Page 16

Libby Purves
Columnist of the year: In praise of bad taste
Page 22

30p
EVERY WEEK DAY

PLUS: Win a £40,000 TVR with Fantasy Formula 1 Page 48

Fantasy Football League Page 46

Women and children freed by Hutus

Bandits seize Britons on gorilla safari

BY SUSAN BELL, ROBIN LODGE AND STEPHEN FARRELL

UP TO 14 tourists, including five Britons, were kidnapped by Hutu rebels as they slept at a gorilla reserve camp site in Uganda yesterday. Their attackers, who were armed with spears, guns and machetes, also killed a game warden and set cars and tents alight before fleeing into the forest.

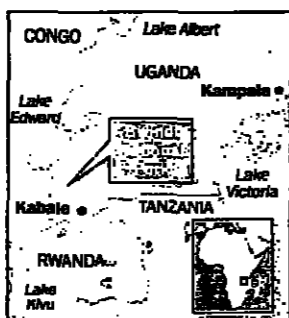
The bandits — thought to have been members of the notorious death squads responsible for the massacre of half a million people in Rwanda five years ago — are believed to have taken 27 people from the camp in the remote Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, but they later let all the women and children go.

It was not clear last night how many were still being held captive, but Michael Cook, the British High Commissioner in Kampala, said that he had received reports that as many as five Britons could be among the hostages, along with several Ugandans, three Americans, three New Zealanders, a Swiss and an Australian. He said: "There is obviously anxiety because of the reputation of the group that has taken them, and the inaccessibility of the area."

The raiders were reported to be heading for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, having released up to 15 people who were described as safe, but "in a terrible state after their ordeal". They were returning to Kampala last night.

René Roudaut, the French ambassador in Kampala, said that about 150 heavily armed bandits had surprised the holidaymakers as they slept at the Buhoma camping site on the northern edge of the park. As dawn broke, the tourists were rounded up at gunpoint and stripped of their valuables while the raiders set fire to vehicles and tents.

Some French-speakers tried



firmation of the nationalities or numbers involved, but we certainly believe that British people are involved, both in the kidnapped group and the group which escaped.

"We are pretty certain that there was a local guide killed, but none of the tourists. We are making arrangements for those who escaped to be flown back to Kampala."

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, created in 1991, covers 331 sq km of rainforest on the edge of the western Rift Valley, south of Lake Edward. It is home to more than 300 mountain gorillas, divided into a dozen groups — more than half of the world's wild mountain gorilla population — and is also famous for nearly 350 species of bird.

The park, whose name means place of darkness, has two tourist camps a few hundred yards apart. One is owned by African Pearl Safaris, and a night there costs between 30 and 65 dollars; the other is Abercrombie and Kent's Buhoma Gorilla Camp, with self-contained standing tents, which cost upwards of 200 dollars a night.

The Park is visited by thousands of tourists every year, but it has become increasingly dangerous as a result of raids by the Hutu rebels who are thought to have carried out the latest attack.

There have been several incidents of rebel forces crossing the border into Uganda to hijack vehicles — either killing or abducting their passengers. Last August, the rebels kidnapped four tourists, a Canadian, two Swedes and a New Zealander, in the region to see the gorillas. The Canadian was later released, but the others have not been seen or heard of since.

FCO accused, page 2



The Prince of Wales and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, sample the banned cut of beef yesterday in Newport although the bones are clearly visible

Prince goes near the bone over beef

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT AND MICHAEL HARVEY

THE Prince of Wales was last night embroiled in a political controversy over beef on the bone after he and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, ate the banned meat at a Welsh food promotion.

An investigation by environmental health officials was under way to discover how the heir to the throne and the cabinet minister came to be offered the banned cut.

The Prince described the meat as "absolutely delicious" and he and Mr Michael encouraged others to taste it.

They were presented with the sirloin by Trevor Jones, a top Welsh chef, with the banned ribs plainly visible on the table in front of them. It was then sliced for them by

James Martin, a television celebrity chef.

Buckingham Palace suggested last night that even if the Prince had realised that the meat was on the bone he would have eaten it anyway.

Mr Michael also claimed he did not know that he had eaten the banned product, although he remarked: "Nice to see it cooked properly."

Later Mr Michael was forced to backtrack and said he would never have eaten the meat if he had known it was on the bone. A Welsh Office spokesman said: "Mr Michael just didn't notice that it was beef on the bone in among all the other food."

Both men are in the clear legally, however. It is not unlawful to eat beef on the bone but a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture said it was il-

legal to supply it even when provided free of charge. Public health inspectors are to visit the Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, near Newport, which served the cut, banned following the BSE crisis.

The organisers of the Welsh promotion, which was specifically backed by the Prince to help Welsh farmers stricken by the farming crisis, could now face legal action.

Steve Howells, a spokesman for the hotel, said the meat had been supplied by their regular firm, Welsh Brothers, of Newport. He said that they had not "deliberately flouted the law" and had believed that the ban only applied to sales of beef on the bone.

"If we are in the wrong then it is because the rules are confused. There should be much clearer rules and guidance."

There was no intention of putting the Prince in an awkward position.

Alan Duncan, the Tory health spokesman, accused the Government of embarrassing the Prince and called on Mr Michael to argue for the ban to be lifted.

Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "Somebody selected a series of cuts of beef, and at a function to promote British beef Alun Michael ate them. Had he known it was taken

from a cut that would be banned for sale he clearly would not have done it."

The Prince seemed unconcerned by the controversy and told farmers, butchers and civic dignitaries at yesterday's launch: "I am only sorry that so many of you have had to wait in here, building up an enormous appetite whilst having to look at this huge hunk of roast beef. Shortly, you will be able to taste it like I did. It's absolutely delicious."

Car fume shock for Los Angeles

Car exhaust fumes which cause cancer are putting Los Angeles residents hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows. Page 15

Straw in race relations warning to police chiefs

BY STEWART TENDLER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND ADAM SAGE

JACK STRAW yesterday warned chief constables that they must take race relations seriously or face government intervention in their forces.

Senior officers could also find themselves back in the classroom attending race relations training alongside top managers from business and industry. The Home Secretary said that it was wrong that chief constables received no further training once they took command.

Mr Straw issued his warning as he released the results of a study into police work on tackling racism. The study showed that police on community and race relations was peripheral in many forces.

The release of the study preceded an announcement from Mr Straw that an independent investigator had been appointed to examine the leak of the highly critical report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on the Stephen Lawrence case.

Mr Straw, who defended his decision to leave the country for the weekend without giving any clue as to precisely where he went, said that the investigation's findings would be reported to MPs. The appointment of the investigator, as yet unnamed, shows the seriousness with which Mr Straw takes the leak.

Of his weekend away, he said only that it was a long-standing family engagement that he had fulfilled in the south of France — and that he had been right to do so. "We have obligations to our families even if we are politicians," he said.

The Conservatives, who attacked Mr Straw for leaving Britain and not making the Commons statement on the affair on Friday, switched their attack back to the original leak. Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow home secretary, said there was a real possibility that the leak had come from within the Government.

He demanded that Mr Straw personally seek assurances from any minister, adviser or civil servant who saw the report in advance that they had not played a part in its prior publication.

The Home Office inspectorate of constabulary told forces 15 months ago that they would have to do better on community policing. The release yesterday of the follow-up study by the inspectorate revealed that 17 of the 43 forces in England and Wales still did not have any community and race relations policy.

Mr Straw told police that new "Best Value" legislation would allow police authorities and ministers to intervene if a force did not reform. The Local Government Bill will give ministers powers to intervene if a force is performing badly. The force would be told for example to draw up a race relations plan or make the issue part of annual targets.

Commenting on the report, Mr Straw said: "We are now at a watershed in police and community relations. This is a time for permanent and irrevocable change."

He said forces would face another audit within the next 18 months.

Lack of action, page 9

Elderly must wait on care

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

FRANK DOBSON was last night attacked for delaying his response to a Royal Commission report that calls for a £1.2 billion annual package to give free long-term nursing care to elderly people.

The Government infuriated care organisations by declaring that it would put the proposals out to consultation until the end of the year, in effect delaying any legislation until at least 2001 — and possibly until after the next election.

Announcing to MPs the long-awaited report's key recommendations, the Health Secretary made clear that the Government was unhappy with such a big bill to the taxpayer and hinted that the package could be partly funded through private insurance schemes.

Whitehall sources also indicated that the Government would not be able to provide the funding for at least three years, as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had committed resources for that period.

The Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly, set up 14 months ago, recommends that the State should cover the costs of nursing and personal care for all, while those with incomes above £60,000 should pay for accommodation and food in

both nursing and residential homes. But the 12 Commissioners were divided and two of them produced a minority report rejecting the key conclusions and calling for a less expensive solution, backed up by private insurance.

Mr Dobson called for an "informed debate" about long-term care, saying that the report made clear there was no "obvious answer" and there should be a full consultation. But he emphasised his findings that the country did not face a demographic time bomb and "that the cost of long-term care should be shared by the individual and the state" and be separated from those of board and lodging.

While refusing to rule out full funding, Mr Dobson suggested that the Government might cherry pick from the findings, choosing the cheaper options, some of which would not need legislation.

The Tories accused Mr Dobson of ducking the issue and dithering. Philip Hammond, the Opposition health spokesman, said that while the Commission had been deliberating 75,000 people had been forced to sell their homes to fund care.

Report's proposals, page 4
Leading article, page 23

A UNIQUE COLLECTORS
WATCH BY PATEK PHILIPPE

Only twenty will ever be made

Boodles & Dunthorne are privileged to be the first ever to commission Patek Philippe to create a limited edition watch of such importance.

Cased in platinum, it has a timeless elegance that will never date. Each boasts a perpetual calendar movement to indicate the day, date and month as well as marking the hour, minute and second.

It is a fine watch, a very fine watch indeed. A watch for the most discerning collector.



BOODLES & DUNTHORNE
ESTABLISHED 1798

128-130 Regent Street, London W1
Telephone Andrew With on 0171-437 5050

Running The Times overseas:
Australia \$5.50; Canada \$5.50; Europe £4.50; USA \$10.00; Japan ¥1,000; New Zealand \$5.50; Singapore \$5.50; South Africa R50; Switzerland Sfr 10.00; Taiwan NT\$100; Thailand THB 100; USA \$5.50.
Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Times, c/o Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001.



9 770140 046220

Strange question of silage provides fodder for thought

WHAT on earth was Derek Wyatt (Lab) talking about? Would the minister for tourism, Mr Wyatt asked yesterday, after "the way silage is coloured on our motorways?" The inquiry was met by a bemused rattle from MPs.

But Wyatt's indignation was not spent. "It is dirty brown. It does not give an appropriate image of new Britain."

Snatching Sittingbourne and Sheppey from the Tories in 1997, Wyatt was the thirteenth least likely new Labour MP. Now he was asking un-

likely questions. Is our motorway system disfigured by spilt silage? Isn't silage dirty green? Can the Government change its colour?

Bald, hulking and amiable, Wyatt looks like a baby giant auk, tumbled too early from the nest. Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* calls him "relaxed about clothes and appearance." "I'm not a suit man. I have only one." A former Oxford Rugby blue, Wyatt may have sustained one blow too many to the head, on yesterday's showing.

I certainly heard "silage".

Collective head-scratching on all sides suggested that MPs heard the same. As, surely, did the minister. Janet Anderson, stumped for a reply, she stammered that her honourable friend raised — "as ever" — the most interesting questions.

But my *Guardian* colleague thinks he heard "signage", meaning "signs", which would have made sense if it were a word. Apparently it does feature in local government dictionaries, after "new-build" and before "social mix" and "total spend". We must



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

give Wyatt the benefit of the doubt: he may be less interesting than he seemed. New Labour backbenchers are not supposed to be interesting.

Which is why Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe and Nantwich) comes as such a relief. The veteran "old" Labour rightwinger arrived yesterday arrayed in a new garment. A vast purple wrap, hundreds of

square yards of it, covered this substantial lady. She described the "enormous opportunities" presented by the Millennium Dome: "a great public space," she said. Ah, Gwyneth, how true: but not our greatest public space! It lends a whole new meaning to the right to roam.

And a new fascination to the concept of women's rugby,

heavily plugged yesterday by the Sports Minister Tony Banks.

For Monday mornings, Mr Banks chooses a wicked little black suit, three-piece, which he wears with a puckered face and sourly deadpan expression. Apropos of "nothing much," Mr Banks offered his congratulations "to the England women's rugby team, on their victory over Scotland". Mr Banks's felicitations will raise a cheer in the ladies' shower room.

"I was there," he declared grimly. "And it was in fact

very, very enjoyable rugby and I'd encourage people to go to women's rugby." Sadly, Mrs Dunwoody looked unconvinced.

Claire Ward seemed more game. The Labour MP for Watford was keen that Banks should promote after-school clubs. Banks said he had been impressed by these on a recent visit to Watford, a constituency foolish enough to reject him as Labour candidate in 1979.

Ms Ward, he mused, would have been seven. "Too young to vote — and too old to kiss."

Ward looked flustered by the thought.

Unflustered and benign throughout was a minister this speech had scarcely noted, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the House, Paddy Tipping. An unpaid appointment, he is so unimportant that new Labour's style police have not even bothered to remove his beard.

But can he make it with that name? Paddy Tipping sounds like an alternative Saturday night sport for canis-skinheads bored with queer-bashing.

Rugged area is a haven for genocidal rebels

ONE OF the travel agencies whose tourists were attacked last night asked the Foreign Office of unclear guidance, despite official warnings two weeks ago that rebel attacks and road ambushes in Uganda's northern and western districts had intensified.

The advice, issued 11 days ago, said that rebels were "periodically active" on the borders of Uganda, Congo and Rwanda, and warned "although the situation is currently peaceful, it can change quickly".

It also warned that operations by a separate rebel group infiltrating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Rwenzori Mountains area in the west of the country were continuing at a reduced level and that the areas of the Rwenzori Mountains, Bundibugyo and Kasese "should be avoided if possible".

However Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Acadia Expeditions, complained that the advice was sometimes worded in such a way that it contained clues which had to be deciphered.

"If they mean 'Don't go', they should say 'Don't go'. It is a bit like estate agent-speak," she said.

She claimed the issue had been discussed at a meeting with the Foreign Office minis-

Tour groups demand clearer official advice, report Michael Binyon and Stephen Farrell

ter Baroness Symons a week ago. "We were told by her that there are only three and a half people manning the travel advice section. We get hundreds and hundreds of pages. It is very difficult to imagine how they can manage to handle it with such limited resources."

Yesterday the Foreign Office advice was swiftly updated: all tourists were warned not to go to the northern and western areas at all.

Visitors were strongly advised to avoid the Gulu, Kitgum and West Nile districts unless they were on urgent business, in which case they should seek local information and proceed with caution.

The kidnappings quickly stirred alarm among those familiar with the inaccessible mountainous area. It has long been the refuge of criminals, wanted men, rebel groups and, more recently, the extrem-

ist perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide killings who are determined to return to power. Some of the bloodiest and most desperate wanted men are thought to have established their bases in the area.

The main rebel group in the area is the Allied Democratic Forces, a loose alliance of former Interahamwe Hutus, responsible for the death of as many as one million Tutsis in the Rwandan genocide. They are allied with Ugandan rebels opposed to the Kampala government, supporters of former President Mobutu in Zaire and local bandits.

Numbering up to 3,000 men scattered in the mountains, they are strong enough to take on the Ugandan Army, and last year overwhelmed and briefly occupied Kasese, the main town at the foot of the mountains. They are well armed, receiving supplies from Sudan and from President Kabila's government in Congo, which is fighting rebels backed by Kampala.

Control Risks, London-based business risk advisers, said that the Ugandan Army tries to deter any tourists going to the mountains, the principal habitat of gorillas. Those that defy the warnings set up camps that are guarded only by local wardens, who could keep off poachers but would

be unable to stop well-armed guerrillas. It said the Interahamwe fighters would be unlikely to take hostages and would probably kill any Europeans they seized.

One of the only two other Britons currently missing and believed kidnapped was seized in this area by Rwandan Hutu rebels, Jason Kear, who holds dual British and New Zealand nationality, was trekking with other tourists to see gorillas on the border with Uganda and Rwanda when he was seized with a Canadian and two Swedes. The Canadian woman was released, but nothing has been heard of him since.



Dian Fossey, who spent much of her life studying gorillas in Rwanda, was believed to have been killed by poachers

GORILLAS ARE MAIN ATTRACTION FOR UGANDA TOURISTS

EVER since an unruly three-year-old gorilla called Pablo became a television star by sitting on David Attenborough in the late 1970s, thousands of tourists have made the journey to meet its relatives (Adam Sherwin writes). With the closure of the park in Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo because of civil war, Uganda is the only country where tourists can find the elusive beasts.

Only 350 mountain gorillas are known to remain in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest and irresponsible tourists, desperate for a glimpse, are causing more damage to the subspecies than poaching or civil war. The number of official visiting permits has

dropped from 50 to 16, leading to a black market in tickets.

People paying £680 for the right to East Africa will often bribe the wardens permits that normally cost £150 per visit have changed hands for £1,000.

Tourists head for Bwindi, in the remote southwest corner of Uganda, near the border with the Congo and Rwanda, home to the majority of the animals. Another 100 live 50 miles away in the Virungas, a chain of mainly extinct volcanoes on the Congo and Rwanda border where Dian Fossey, of *Gorillas in the Mist* fame, lived and worked for 13 years until she was killed, probably by poachers, in 1985.

Lawyers demand action over costs

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 solicitors will attend a crisis meeting at the Law Society today to demand action over a multimillion-pound shortfall in the fund that pays out on negligence claims.

Some solicitors are facing rises of up to 100 per cent in their compulsory insurance premiums to meet the shortfall of some £360 million, which they say will push up legal fees to the public. The shortfall has arisen because of incompetent conveying solicitors in the late 1980s when the housing market collapsed.

More than 100 solicitors are calling on the Law Society to allow them to obtain their professional insurance cover on the open market. At present all law firms have to pay the premiums of the Solicitors' Indemnity Insurance Fund which is some £433 million in the red. Some 100 law firms have called a special general meeting to force the Law Society's hand. There will also be a special council meeting today by the Law Society's governing body to decide what action to take.

The Indemnity Fund cautions against the lure of the open market. While premiums might at first be low, they could rapidly rise if the market changes, it says. Elizabeth Mullins, managing director, said the open market was unlikely to provide the extent of cover provided by the Fund.

Older teachers 'too expensive'

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MIDDLE-AGED teachers are being frozen out of the job market as schools opt for newly qualified staff to help balance their budgets, new figures have shown.

More than 8,000 people were seeking teaching jobs in mainstream schools while claiming state benefits last month even though there were up to 3,000 vacancies in England and Wales. Up to half of them were in their forties and fifties.

The number of teaching vacancies has been rising steadily throughout the 1990s, although last year's total of 2,521 still re-

presented less than 0.7 per cent of the full complement in state schools. Secondary schools struggled to find suitable candidates in foreign languages, mathematics and some science subjects.

However, new statistics from the Employment Service show that more than 16,000 teachers are seeking work in primary or secondary schools. Although some are newly qualified graduates, fewer than 4,000 are in their twenties.

The largest group, at more than 4,600, are in their fifties. Most are thought to have taken early retirement and are hoping to supplement their income through temporary teaching work. Their lengthy

service makes them expensive to employ permanently. Difficulties experienced by older applicants has led to the formation of the Association of Teachers Against Ageism. Harry Harris, its treasurer, said: "This is not just a problem in teaching, but it is particularly serious in schools."

Stephen Hillier, the Teacher Training Agency's head of communications, said the age profile of those seeking jobs in schools followed that of the teaching profession as a whole. "It may be that many of these people are in the wrong place or have the wrong qualifications."

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sewage action demand

The Government yesterday told the water industry to clean up sewage while cutting bills by 10 per cent. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, claimed the combination was achievable but Water UK, the industry's trade association, said there was a £2 billion shortfall between what water companies believed the programme would cost, and figures produced by Ofwat and the Environment Agency. Mr Meacher said that in future all coastal discharges serving populations of 2,000 or more must receive at least secondary treatment.

Car sales 25% down

Figures to be published this week are expected to show a fall of more than 25 per cent in new car registrations in January and February. Car manufacturers, braced for an 8 per cent fall in sales over the year, are hoping for high March sales after yesterday's launch of six-monthly registrations. Although private orders are low for T-reg plates, fleet sales are expected to be good.

Obsessed secretary guilty

Gillian Hartshorne, 50, the secretary of Professor David Canter of Liverpool University, a leading criminal psychologist, was found guilty of harassment causing fear of violence against him. Hartshorne, who became obsessed that he was having an affair with a student and bombarded him with more than 500 abusive telephone calls, will be sentenced on March 15.

McDonald 'improving'

The Channel 4 presenter Sheena McDonald, who suffered serious head injuries when she was hit by a speeding police van, showed signs of a slight improvement. She is still in intensive care at University College Hospital, Central London, but is now able to breathe without a ventilator and her condition remains stable. She was hurt in an accident on Friday night in Islington.

Porn teacher jailed

A public school teacher and former lay clerk at Ely Cathedral who downloaded child pornography from the Internet onto his home computer was jailed for four months. Jonathan Bowden, 30, who taught music at The King's School, Ely, admitted 21 charges at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex. The offences came to light when Bowden took his computer for repairs.

Scots told to keep nuclear deterrent

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A NUCLEAR-FREE independent Scotland would dangerously weaken Britain's nuclear deterrent, the Defence Secretary said yesterday.

George Robertson, who in his youth campaigned against the deployment of American ballistic missile submarines at Holy Loch, told a Scottish audience that the Royal Navy's Trident submarines must remain at Faslane because the base on the Clyde had long played an important part in Britain's defence.

Delivering his first major speech on nuclear policy at Aberdeen University, Mr Robertson warned the Scottish Nationalist Party: "Those who would take Scotland out of the United Kingdom need to address the implications of separation for the rest of the country."

The nationalists, he said, were committed to closing all nuclear installations on Scottish soil and prohibiting all nuclear-powered submarines from Scottish waters.

The clear implication, he said, was that the Faslane base would have to be moved south.

"What would happen to those jobs linked to the nuclear facilities at Faslane? What would be the timescale for withdrawal?" he asked.

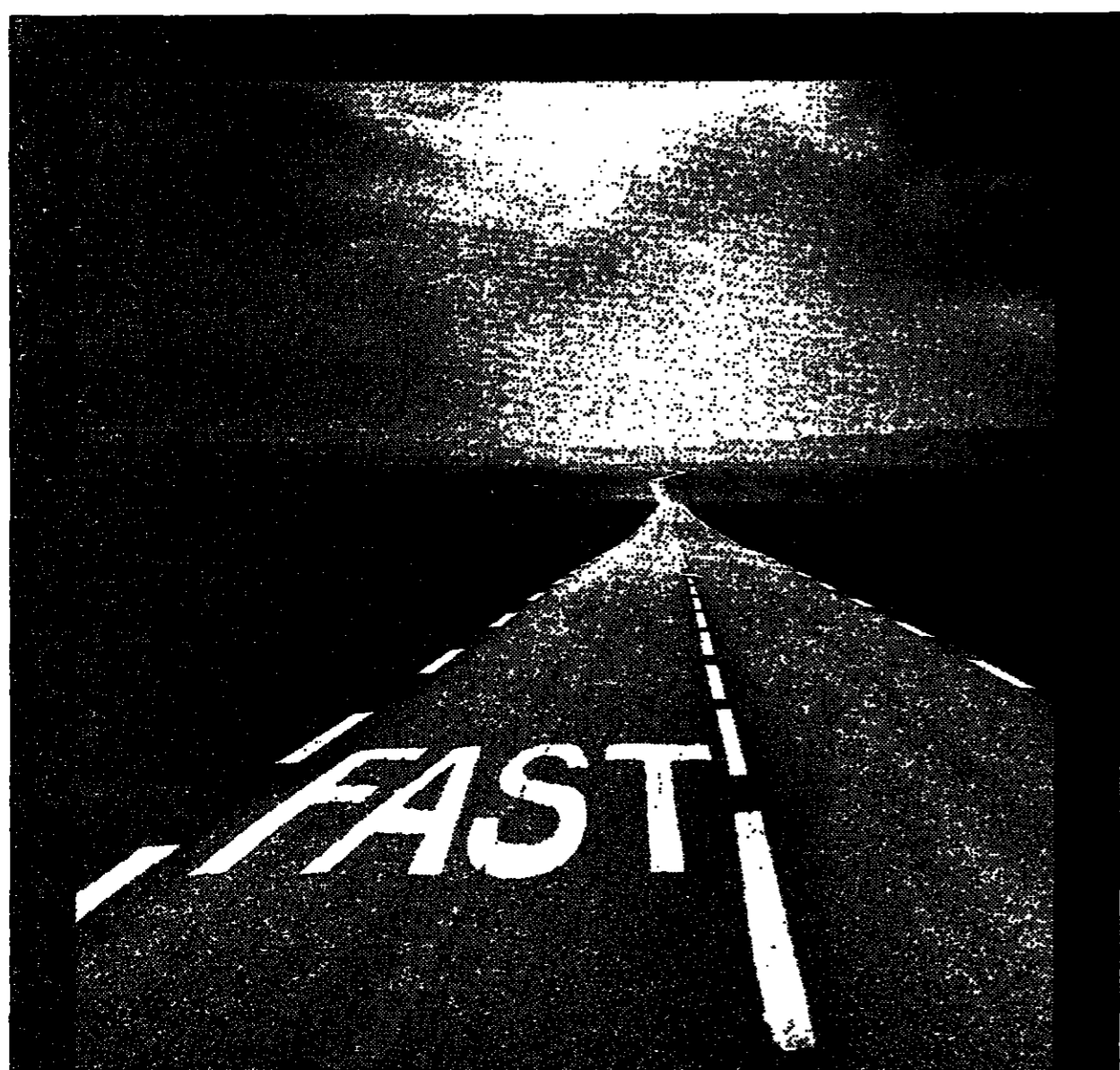
Mr Robertson also asked whether the SNP had bothered to think about the years of "fraught" negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to divide the Black Sea Fleet, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Would a separate Scottish state compensate the rest of the United Kingdom for any costs that arose?" he asked.

Mr Robertson also called on Scottish nationalists to consider the cost of setting up a separate Scottish Army, Navy and Air Force.

Quality health insurance from 50p a day

Call 0800 7799 55 Prime Health to find out more



Apply by Friday for our lowest-ever Car Loan rate – from just 9.9% APR*

If you're a NatWest customer, simply pop into your nearest branch or call us and we'll give you 2% APR off our standard Car Loan rate. The offer ends 5th March 1999, so you'd better move fast.

CALL 0800 24 34 06

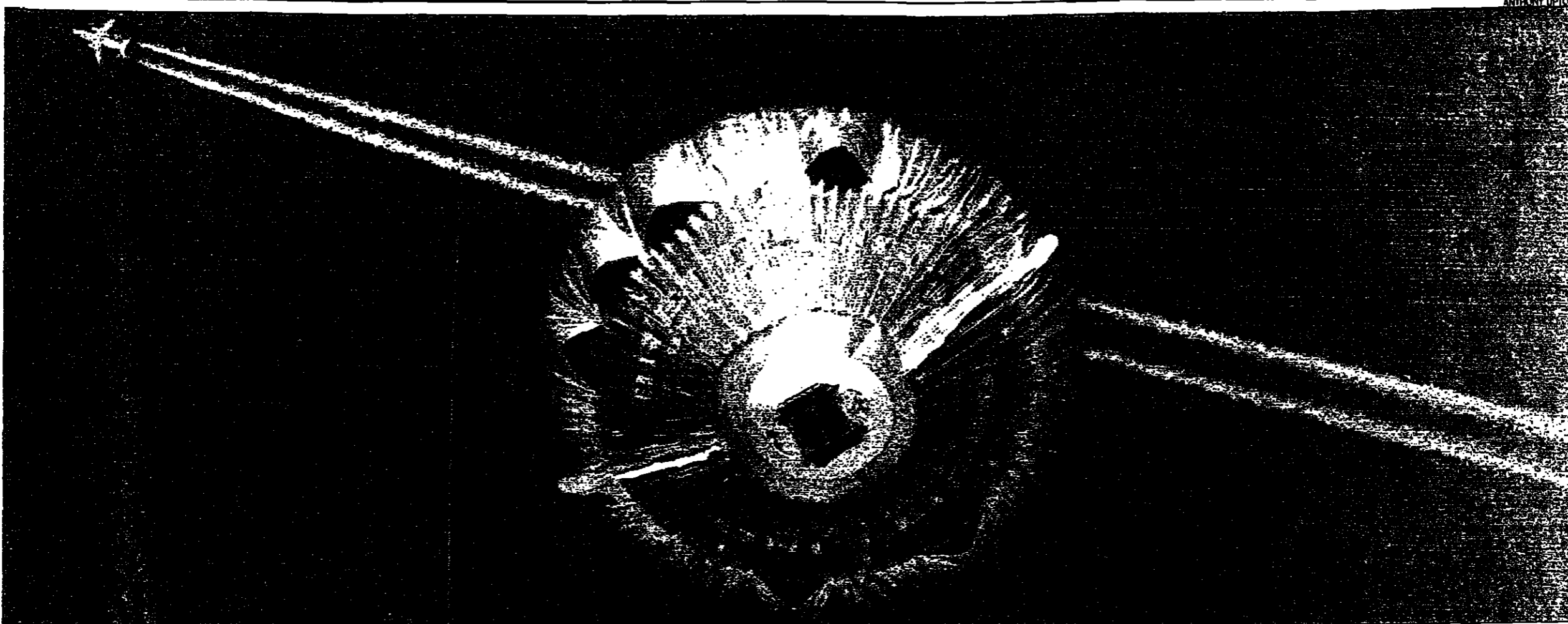
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 6.00pm or ask at your nearest branch.

NatWest

More than just a bank

*9.9% APR is for loans of £20,000 or more. Advertised generally for Car Loans only with Advantage, Priority and Gold. Credit is only available to persons aged 18 and over and is subject to status and conditions. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank PLC, Registered Office: 41 Lombard Street, London EC2P 3EP, or from any NatWest branch. If you borrow £20,000 over 48 months at a rate of 11.9% APR, you would pay 48 monthly payments of £508.92. The total amount payable would be £24,427.16. This example includes the 2% APR discount. To have a NatWest Car Loan, you must have a NatWest Current Account. Please ask a member of staff for application details. In order to improve and maintain our service, we may monitor and record your phone calls with us. Offer ends 5th March 1999. 2% APR discount applies only to Car Loans.

مكتبة الأمل



After several bumpy false starts, the Breitling Orbiter 3 balloon takes to the skies in the Swiss Alps yesterday, starting a race to the finish with the Cable & Wireless craft which is currently attempting to manoeuvre around China

Global balloon race finally takes off

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW IN CHÂTEAU D'OEX

THE challenge to be the first team to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon became a true race yesterday with the launch of Breitling Orbiter 3 in the Swiss Alps.

Andy Elson was hanging outside his Cable & Wireless balloon over the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning when his co-pilot told him that their rivals were airborne.

Although it is 6,000 miles behind, the Breitling Orbiter is smaller, lighter and will go faster - a lean hare to the Cable and Wireless tortoise.

The news only added to Mr Elson's frustration at being forced to take the slow route around China. As they are a British team the Chinese have banned them in retribution for Richard Branson's trespassing balloon flight at Christmas.

Although the Cable & Wireless craft has broken the world endurance record of 10 days and will by tomorrow have spent a fortnight in the air, now at 20mph they can only sit and watch their rivals catch them up on the best 100mph winds going over China.

However it was a rocky start for the Breitling Orbiter 3 in Chateau d'Oex and for Brian Jones, the British co-pilot who was standing on top of the capsule as it launched.

The same fast winds that have the team confidently predicting they will be around the world in 15 days caused the 55 metre high silver balloon to strain at its tethers.

It crashed down to earth five times with alarming crunching sounds, rocking Mr Jones



on his feet before it finally shot up into the air at 8.05am.

Mr Jones, 51, a ballooning instructor from Devizes, Wiltshire, had earlier asked the 5,000-strong crowd to sing Happy Birthday to Bertrand Piccard, his Swiss co-pilot who was 41 yesterday.

This was forgotten in the anxiety of take-off. "It was a

very difficult dangerous take-off," said Joanna Jones, his wife, a balloon pilot and member of the Breitling mission control team.

"Balloons are not meant to bounce like that and to make it worse this is the first time Brian has been on top of the capsule as it launches.

"It makes it worse to know

how dangerous this can be. I was trying not to watch but it all got a little bit more emotional than advertised."

Within three hours of launching the pilot announced that the balloon had been undamaged by its battering and predicted they would be over Morocco by this morning.

They aim to be on the Pacific coast by this weekend, gaining at least a week on their rivals and possibly overtaking them.

"This is tedious low level manoeuvring," said Ian Achpole, flight director for Cable & Wireless. "But it's important to get around China, and still have enough fuel to get all the way around the world."

The Cable & Wireless balloon is predicted to be close to the coast of Burma by this morning. The Breitling headed at 17mph over the Matterhorn and on to Turin and

Nice. By this morning the Breitling team hopes to be travelling over the coast of Morocco and by tomorrow to Mauritania where they aim to pick up a 100mph jet stream, heading for China in around six days.

Just before lift off Mr Jones said that the Breitling team had never felt so confident.

"The idea that we are taking off in a last ditch attempt at the end of the season couldn't be further from the truth," he said. Instead, he said, the winds were faster than they had predicted.

The Cable & Wireless team has given up efforts to repair a faulty heater, which has left Colin Prescott and Mr Elson forced to wear Arctic survival gear at high altitudes.

A spokeswoman said: "It is not ideal, but it is not mission-threatening, so they will just be putting a brave face on it."



Brian Jones kisses his wife Joanna goodbye

Boy, 13, is not guilty over death of brother

A BOY aged 13 who accidentally killed his brother with a knife bore no responsibility for his death, a judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Poole told Leeds Crown Court that Daniel Cooper was not guilty of a manslaughter charge arising from the death of his brother, Richard, 18, and that he should "put this matter behind him".

The judge's comments came after the prosecution dropped a charge of murder against the boy, then offered no evidence when he pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge of manslaughter.

Aidan Marron, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Richard Cooper, a builder's labourer, had been stabbed through the eye during an argument at the family home in York last December.

Mr Marron said that after struggling with his father, John, Richard had grabbed Daniel by the face with both hands.

"Daniel grabbed hold of a nearby kitchen knife. He held it by the handle with the blade pointing up. There is no suggestion that it was held in a stabbing fashion," he said.

Mr Marron said that when Richard suddenly moved forward the blade of the knife penetrated his eye and brain. He died in hospital the following day.

Paul Worsley, QC, for the defence, said: "This was a tragic accident, as young Daniel has always said."

Take That star challenges £1m court decision

BY JOANNA BALE

ROBBIE WILLIAMS, the reformed bad boy of pop who won three Brit Awards this year, began another courtroom battle yesterday with the man who launched his show-business career.

Lawyers for the 25-year-old performer are challenging a High Court ruling that he must pay his former manager, Nigel Martin-Smith, £90,000 in commission under the terms of a complex management agreement. At stake is an estimated £1 million when legal costs, VAT, interest and further ongoing commission are assessed.

The case, in the Court of Appeal, dates from 1995 when Mr Williams left Take That, the phenomenally successful five-piece boy band created by Mr Martin-Smith in the late 1980s. Michael Silverleaf, QC,



Williams: second legal fight with ex-manager

for the singer, told how Mr Williams decided to leave because he found "the tight restrictions" imposed by Mr Martin-Smith to maintain the band's clean-living image "somewhat difficult".

"There is no dispute that Mr Williams, in terms of his ability to perform, was widely perceived to be the funnyman with the ability to get the audience going... he was generally regarded as the frontman."

Alluding to Mr Williams' penchant for alcohol and drugs, from which he has now recovered, Mr Silverleaf added: "Mr Williams began to go out to parties and enjoy himself, which caused friction. He began to talk about leaving because of his desire to get on and work on his own, but he made it quite clear that he was quite happy to fulfil all the commitments of the band."

However, the other members of the band, Gary Barlow, Jason Orange, Mark Owen and Howard Donald, told Mr Williams that Mr Martin-Smith had advised them that he should leave immediately.

Mr Silverleaf argued that Mr Martin-Smith was therefore not entitled to the commission because he had breached the management agreement. "Instead of organising the dissolution of the band amicably, he decided to protect the remaining four."

The hearing continues.

Clowes is jailed for benefits fraud

BY A CORRESPONDENT

PETER CLOWES, the disgraced financier, was jailed for four months yesterday after he was found guilty of making false claims for job seeker's allowance.

Clowes, 56, sentenced to ten years after the collapse of the investment company Barlow Clowes in 1992, had denied claiming £1,800 in benefits when he was working.

Judge John Rogers, QC, sitting at Mold Crown Court in North Wales, told Clowes, from Stockport, Manchester: "You informed both orally and in writing the Benefits Agency that you weren't working. That was untrue."

During the five-day trial, the jury was told that Clowes was accused of three specimen charges over a four-month period from December 1996 to March 1997.

Robin Spencer, for the prosecution, said Clowes had been working for a computer company in London called WP Software. However, he had left that job and begun claiming benefit while living with his wife and two children in a rented, £800-a-month house in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

But the prosecution said, he was working as a computer programmer for a business trading under the name of PCSI, set up by his step-daughter and her boyfriend. He had been paying his household bills from the business bank account. Clowes was being "paid through the back door".

Salvatore Ferragamo



BUTTERFLY

LONDON 24, Old Bond Street - Tel. 0171 629 50 07

PC pounds beat in search of jury

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE faced with a shortage of jurors ordered a police officer to go out into the street to press-gang passers-by. But not one person agreed to help.

Judge Richard Hayward ordered the rare move when an indecent assault trial in his court at Lewes, East Sussex, was delayed for four hours after a female juror failed to attend.

He sent PC Dave Bielkus to find a replacement but the men and women in the street, showing a marked lack of civic duty, all made excuses and left. The problem was resolved only when a juror summoned three hours earlier finally

arrived in a taxi. The incident occurred on Friday but details were not disclosed until the trial finished yesterday to avoid any possible prejudice to proceedings.

A jury of 12 had been sworn in on Thursday and the prosecution had opened its case before Judge Hayward adjourned the proceedings overnight. On Friday morning, no trace could be found of a female juror in her 20s.

Judge Hayward was forced officially to discharge the 11 remaining jurors to allow a fresh group of 12 to be selected and sworn in, but all potential jurors were by then serving in other trials. Court staff tried to contact Hove

Crown Court, ten miles away, to see if it had any spare jurors, only to get an answerphone message. Finally a spare juror did arrive from Hove to bring the pool of available jurors up to 12.

That still left a problem: a jury has to be selected at "random" and for that to happen a pool of at least 13 must be available. Judge Hayward agreed to send court staff outside to "summon someone on the street". Eventually, a 13th juror arrived more than three hours after being contacted at home and told to take a taxi.

Mark Venables, 21, from Hove, East Sussex, was found not guilty of indecent assault.

Oxford college sees drink as bar to success

By Helen Johnstone

AN OXFORD college is considering a cut in bar opening hours in an attempt to improve students' examination results.

Reducing evening opening by an hour is one of a series of measures academics are discussing with undergraduates at St Catherine's. At present the college languishes 28th out of 30 in the Norrington Table, the unofficial league table of Oxford colleges' academic performance.

Students are fiercely critical of the plan, which would restrict opening hours from 8pm to 11pm instead of 7.30pm to 11.30pm. More than 250 protesters packed into a routine junior common room meeting normally attended by only 50.

An unofficial poster on the college's JCR notice board invited academics to set a better example by cutting their own consumption of wine at college dinners. The poster suggested it would ensure dons were on top form "to lead their sinful students back to academic paradise" rather than branding them "feckless delinquents bloated on Castlemaine".

Between Ajmal, the JCR president at St Catherine's, said yesterday that students generally thought the idea of reducing bar hours was a bad

one. She said: "It would encourage people to go out into town, which takes more time. It might encourage people to drink more in a short period of time and there is a benefit of having people in college when they are going to drink rather than send them into town."

Ms Ajmal emphasised that a number of measures were being considered to raise academic standards at the college following meetings between the JCR and fellows. "The relationship between the two has been good, with quite a bit of give and take. I hope the idea about the bar will not be seen as a punitive measure, rather as one of many constructive suggestions being considered."

The governing body is having a big rethink about how the college is performing. There will be no quick changes.

An academic policy committee, set up at St Catherine's to increase standards, is expected to make a number of recommendations to the university's governing body.

Ms Ajmal said students and staff shared a mutual desire to raise standards, including the quality of tuition and lecturing. Both sides wanted to investigate ways of ensuring students got more out of their degree. The primary aim in

the discussions was not to improve St Catherine's position in the Norrington Table but to make sure students got the academic support they needed.

Martin Jackson, bursar of St Catherine's, yesterday confirmed that a working party of fellows had been looking at academic standards and had examined bar opening hours among a wide range of domestic activities affecting academic life.

He said he had not seen their report and was not aware of proposals to cut bar opening hours.

Any changes would be done in consultation with the junior common room. He added: "The report has not yet been seen by the governing body of the college. Until that takes place nothing in the report is either a proposal or an item for action."

Students say study and alcohol do mix

STUDENTS at Balliol College, Oxford, believe that their results refute any link between bar opening hours and poor academic performance (Helen Johnstone writes).

Balliol, whose students enjoy the longest bar opening hours of any Oxford college, shot up to fifth place from 19th in this year's Norrington Table. Neville Eisenberg, the college's junior common room president, said: "It is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that closing the bar would improve academic results."

He attributed Balliol's success to its strong academic record. "Ours is one of only two bars at the university run by students and we open from 6.30pm to 11pm," he said. "If people want to drink, they will go into town to drink, and that would result in more problems."

Harris Manchester College, bottom of the Norrington Table, yesterday denied that alcohol consumption had anything to do with its position. Caroline Barnes, 26, a JCR spokeswoman, said: "Our college is low in the table only because it is small. We are all

mature students and there are only about 120 of us.

"Our bar is like a small living-room. Few of us ever over-indulge. There are not many students who are under 30 and we are quite happy to have a couple of glasses of wine after dinner."

Tony George, bar manager at St Catherine's College, said that he rarely saw more than 50 students on a weeknight, and that many of them wanted only a can of cola. "They don't drink massive amounts. If you reduced the opening hours they would just go into town and drink there," he said.

Between Ajmal, St Catherine's JCR president, said: "We are more laid-back here than at other colleges where there is much more of a bar culture. We have a pool table and television and they attract as many people as the alcohol."

She conceded, however, that last year's favourite tipple was a "bit dubious". "It was called Cuban Fire and I think it was a type of rum punch. Fortunately, most students have gone back to drinking beer," she said.

Village wins compromise on grant

By Simon de Bruijckere

A VILLAGE that spurned the offer of £180,000 from the National Lottery for a new leisure centre was yesterday celebrating a far smaller grant to improve its existing hall.

The 352 residents of Llanbedr, near Crickhowell in Powys, said last year that they were "too middle class" to accept the initial offer from the lottery's Millennium Fund, and that poor former mining communities in the valleys of South Wales would be worthy recipients.

The issue split the village, with those who wanted a new leisure centre accusing their neighbours of snobbery, but in a mini-referendum last year residents voted 135 to 76 to keep their old hall.

Yesterday the National Lottery Charities Board, a separate body responsible for allocating lottery money, agreed to spend £87,000 on the 70-year-old brick hall, at which generations have held harvest festivals and fairs.

Duke cuts rents by 15 per cent

By Claudia Joseph

THE Duke of Northumberland has agreed to cut his tenant farmers' rent by 15 per cent. The duke, 41, who is one of Britain's wealthiest men, has offered the 170 tenants, who pay between £55 and £65 an acre, the choice of a rent decrease or improvements on their farms.

He told them: "The last 18 months have been the worst in living memory. Poor weather and low yields, on top of a high pound, low prices and BSE, have produced a rotten cocktail."

The duke's family seat is Alnwick Castle, set in 100,000 acres, as well as Syon House in London and a shooting lodge in Berwickshire. The tenants' farms range from 200 to 1,000 acres and Northumberland Estates has a turnover of £100 million.

EU talks on farm spending were postponed until Thursday after France protested that some proposed reforms were too radical.



Pet rescue: a fireman reaching for the trapped Armani



Back behind bars: the hamster after its two-day jaunt

Firemen dig deep to save hamster

A PET hamster that disappeared down a drainpipe at its owner's home in Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, at the weekend was eventually rescued by firemen from 6ft under the garden patio yesterday.

One fire engine and a rescue unit with 12 firefighters on board attended after Armani could be heard by her owners scratching underground. The firefighters had to dig a deep hole to expose the pipe and free the animal, and that meant ripping up the patio.

Armani, a female hamster, was eventually freed by a fireman who had been lowered head first into the 6ft hole by his colleagues. The firefighters had earlier sent a remote-

controlled camera down the pipe and were able to see where Armani was stuck.

The trouble began on Saturday when the hamster escaped after being let out of its cage during a power cut. Karen Wakefield, 32, her husband Tim, 37, and their sons Tom, 7, and George, 5, searched by candlelight for Armani. But when the lights came back on, there was no sign of the pet hamster.

The search continued on Sunday and yesterday morning Mrs Wakefield heard the sounds of scratching from a pipe that ran from under the kitchen sink to the garden outside. The family called in the fire brigade.

Catholic school bans Red Nose Day

By Adam Sherwin

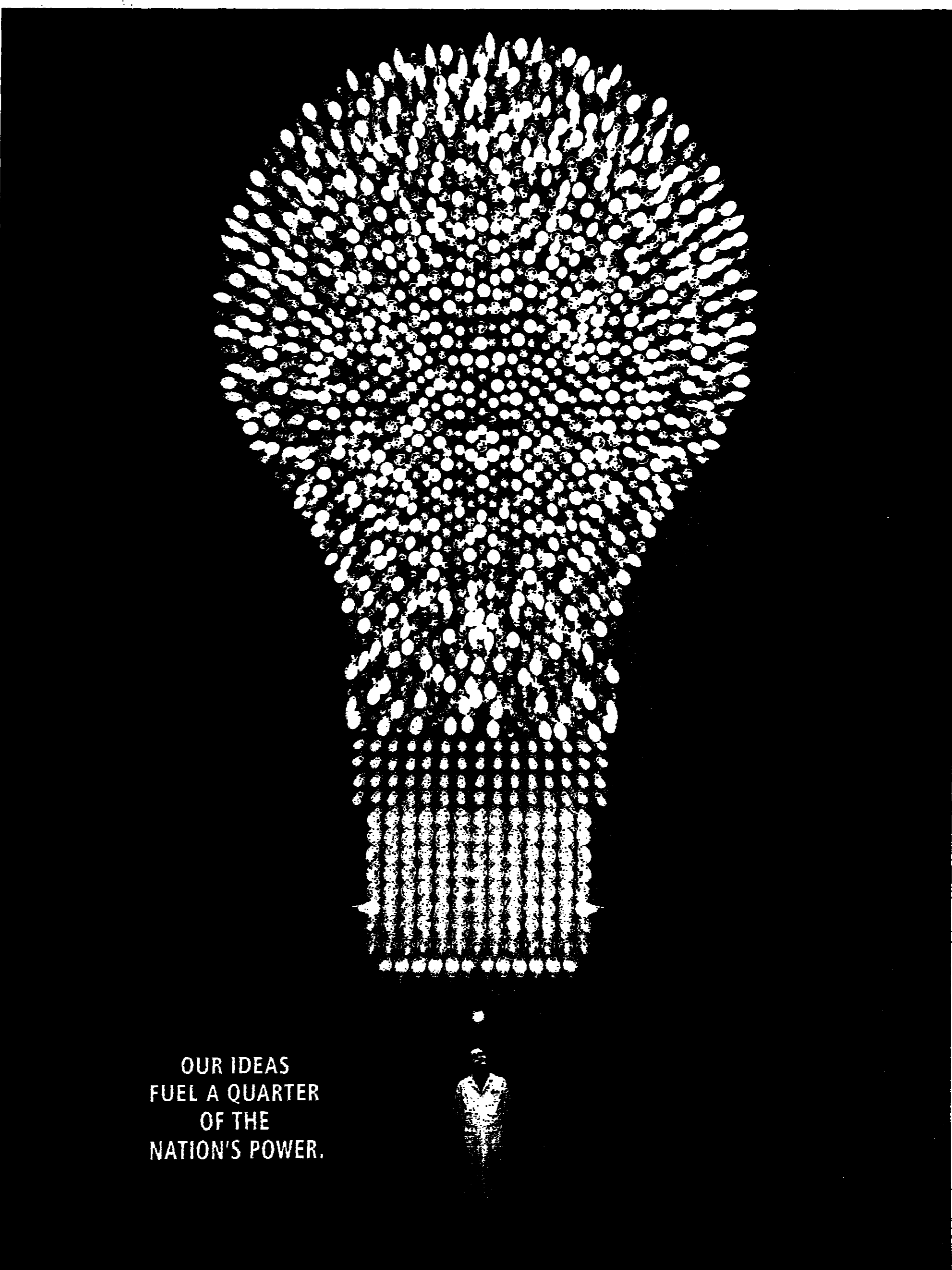
A HEADMASTER has banned pupils from taking part in Red Nose Day because funds raised by the charity Comic Relief support projects that promote contraception.

Children at Rosary Roman Catholic School in Salfrey, Birmingham, will not be allowed to wear red noses or collect money at school for the appeal on March 12.

Jim Caffery, the head, said: "We are against Red Nose Day because of its support for contraception, abortion and sterilisation, which I believe is a moral evil."

Mr Caffery's stand was supported by the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Media Office said: "People will question whether family planning is a need in the same way as acute poverty."

Comic Relief said that misleading information had been circulated about its activities. "We do not fund abortions or sterilisation. We fund work that promotes informed choice about family planning," a spokesman said.



OUR IDEAS
FUEL A QUARTER
OF THE
NATION'S POWER.

Over a quarter of the UK's electricity is generated with the nuclear fuel supplied by BNFL.

This helps reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels - thus saving millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases from being pumped into the atmosphere every year. As these gases are one of the primary causes of global warming, everyone benefits from our

contribution to the national grid.

We've also developed technology that recovers around 97% of used nuclear fuel. This can be made into fresh fuel, to burn again.

At the same time, our technologies are helping to decommission the world's outdated nuclear sites in both the East and the West.

What's more, some of our big ideas go beyond the nuclear power industry.

We've created bearings that run silently on a magnetic cushion, which means they never wear out.

We've even produced a liquid that can be breathed, so it can save the lives of premature babies.

A big idea can change the world. And you'll find

a world of them at BNFL. To learn more about what we do and how we do it, visit www.bnfl.com or come to one of our Visitors Centres.



Where science never sleeps

Lambeth
BUILDING SOCIETY

Notice to Borrowers

The rate of interest on existing variable rate mortgages will be reduced by 0.50% from 2nd March 1999 or such later date as provided by the Mortgage Deed.

118 - 120 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7XE
<http://www.lambeth.co.uk>

'State cannot foot bill for all'

THE DISENTICERS

testing is
lar and
s unjust

THE CHOICE NOW

You Can Now
Speak To Your
Family & Friends
Overseas for
Longer...



Lottery	9
Powerball	8
Millionaire	14
6	6
5	8
4	5
3	10
2	22
1	11
0	16

100 Limited
3000

Lottery Scandal

Could it have been you?

The lottery begins at birth.

The odds are, one in three babies will be born into poverty.

This is not the developing world we're talking about. This is here, now, in Britain.

The downward spiral that leaves thousands of children excluded from society is random, relentless and no fault of their own.

Where you happen to be born can have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

The highest concentration of disadvantaged children can be found in only 59 local authority districts in the country. They may be no-go areas to some, but they can be no-exit areas for the young people who have to grow up there.

How can we gamble with the future of children this way?

With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

So where does the buck stop?

With government? Or with each and every one of us?

The Children's Society believes we all have a responsibility to the next generation.

And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands-150,000 exclusions in a single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in 1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years - a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with drugs and prostitution, simply to survive.



Beating the odds

Many of the problems children face are complex and interlinked.

The way we see it, they demand an holistic approach.

There is no quick fix. But there is progress to be proud of. Last year The Children's Society helped nearly 40,000 children, directly.

We are the only national charity working with youngsters on remand in prison.

We were the first to open a refuge for those at risk on the streets, the first to develop programmes in primary schools to proactively prevent exclusions and the first to introduce family centres.

Whilst our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not.

Helping them realise their full potential, enables them to act as catalysts for change within their own neighbourhood.

The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

"When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us in one of them bed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were upstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them."

Karen aged 14

As a Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

And they are nearer than you think.

The vast majority of you live within a short car ride of real poverty. To see exactly how close you are to the most deprived areas in England, Scotland and Wales, you can phone for our Lottery Scandal Map.

Being born in the wrong place can extinguish every opportunity a child might have in life.

Which is why your support is invaluable. By helping to fund our work, you will be helping those children who have never had a decent chance.

It shouldn't be a lottery.

Help us put it right.

Please call now for your free copy of our Lottery Scandal Map or to make a donation. Thank you.

0845 600 4400

www.the-childrens-society.org.uk



The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales
Room 229, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street,
London WC1X 0JL
Charity Registration No. 221124

2548/73

Twin
for e
blight



Sculpture
by art c

Over 50 and more
motor i
0800 484 184

هكذا من الذم

'State cannot foot bill for all'

DISSENTERS

A GIRL, aged ten whose intelligent mind is trapped inside a gravely disabled body was awarded £2.5 million yesterday.

The High Court was told that Katie Whitley's disabilities were caused in the half hour between her twin sister's birth and her own. Mr Justice Butefield said that although the case was a tragic one, the Whitleys were a "delightful family" who had "lit up the sometimes gloomy surroundings" of London's Law Courts.

The girls were born on April 13, 1988, at Maidstone Hospital, Kent. The elder child, Emily, was born naturally and was well but Katie's delivery proved so difficult that doctors had to carry out a Caesarean section.

In the half hour between the first birth and the operation, Katie nearly died because she was starved of oxygen. Doctors saved her life but she was so disabled that she was doomed to a life of total reliance on care. Although she fully understands what is going on around her, she has difficulty speaking and has limited mobility.

Katie was taken into court in her wheelchair yesterday by her parents, Denis, 44, a computer consultant, and Vivienne, 42. Emily and her eldest sister, Clea, 13, sat near her.

David Richardson, the family's counsel, told the court that the half-hour delay in delivering Katie was something that would have grave consequences for the rest of her life. But despite her disabilities, she was a cheerful little girl who was enormously fortunate in having such a loving

Twin gets £2.5m for error that blighted her life

A slip-up at birth tragically diverted the paths of two sisters, reports Ian Murray

family behind her. Katie suffers from dystonic paraplegia, which means that she cannot stand or walk unaided, can scarcely speak and has uncontrollable spasms, although her intelligence is not affected.

Nerve cells die without oxygen and babies at birth are especially vulnerable to being deprived of it.

A baby's brain cannot tolerate a total lack of oxygen for more than about five minutes. When the supply is limited, cells that control different functions are destroyed progressively.

Through her father, Katie, of Newcastle in Co. Down, Northern Ireland, had sued the West Kent Health Authority, the managers of Maidstone Hospital.

The health authority, the court was told, admitted 95 per cent liability for Katie's injuries in October 1997 and had agreed to settle her claim for £2.5 million.

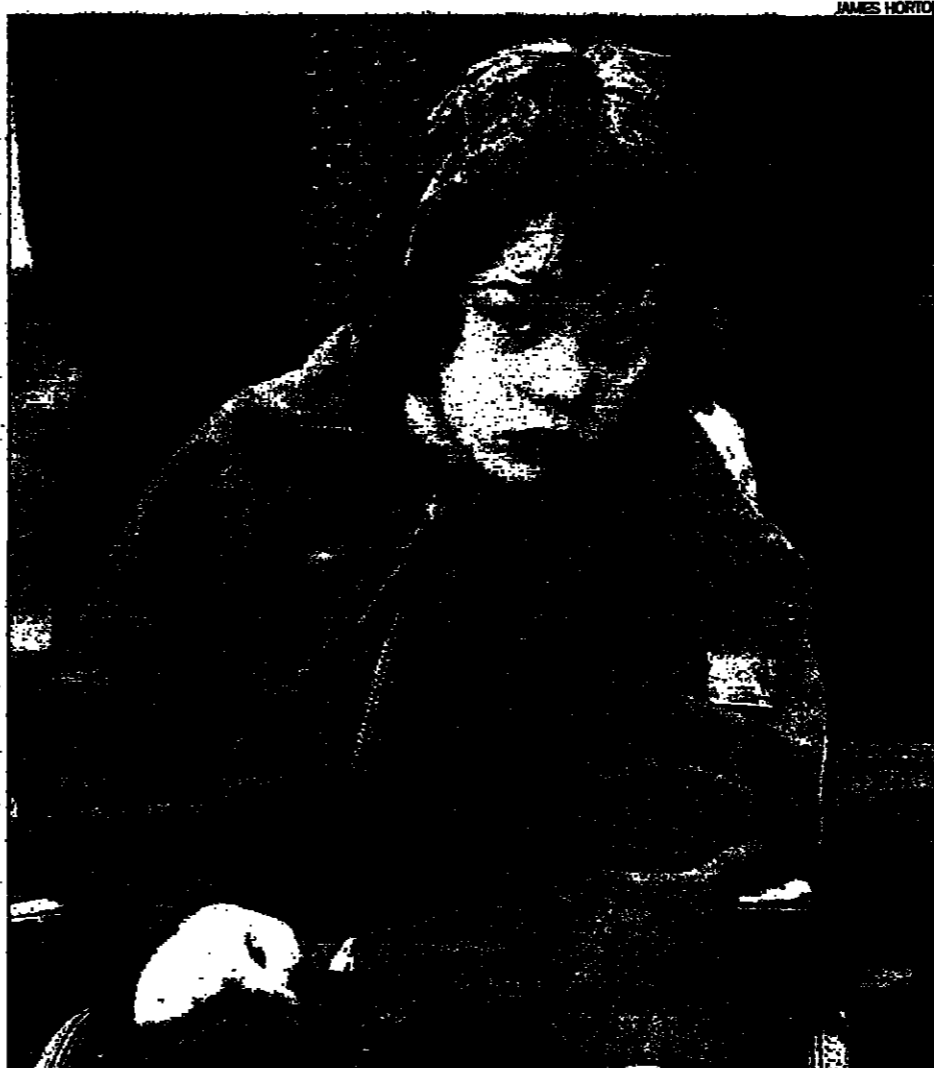
Philip Havers, QC, for the authority, also paid tribute to the "remarkable devotion" of Katie's family. "We on this side wish them well," he said. Liability had been "admitted to a very, very substantial extent", he said and his clients

wished to express their "deep regrets for the events which gave rise to this claim". Although no amount of money could turn back the clock, Mr Havers said, the settlement figure was "large on any view" and the health authority hoped that it would ensure a happy and fulfilled life for Katie.

"This is another example of the triumph of hope over adversity," he said, wishing the family "every fortune".

After the hearing, Mr Whitley said that he was pleased that the case had been settled without the need for a contested trial.

"We are obviously delighted to get the whole thing settled in a way which makes sure Katie will be properly cared for for the rest of her life, without ceaseless battles over her education and care," he said. "She will have her own resources."



Katie Whitley yesterday: she nearly died at birth after her brain was starved of oxygen

Game warden 'hid evidence of murder'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN NAIROBI

THE former Kenyan game warden accused of murdering Julie Ward lied and suppressed evidence to deflect suspicion of his involvement, the Nairobi High Court was told yesterday.

Simon Ole Makallah's conduct after the disappearance of the British tourist "can only cast a deep suspicion of his motives", Salim Dhanji, the prosecutor, said in his opening address.

Mr Makallah is accused of murdering Miss Ward, 28, at the Masai Mara game reserve in September 1988. He was the first to reach the site where Miss Ward's remains were found.

An initial Kenyan police investigation concluded that Miss Ward had committed suicide by setting herself alight and that her body had then been torn apart by animals. A police post-mortem report was later found to have been altered to remove references to the body having been cut up. Miss Ward's father, John, who

was in court yesterday, has devoted the past decade to discovering the truth about his daughter's death.

As a result of his efforts, and the involvement of detectives from Scotland Yard, two game wardens were tried for Miss Ward's murder in 1992, but acquitted. Mr Makallah was a key prosecution witness at that trial.

The case continues.



Julie Ward: killed on Kenyan game reserve

ing is and just
CHOICE NOW



The bust of Edward Salter, bought by the Ashmolean

Sculpture saved by art charity

BY DALIA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPORTANT 18th-century sculpture was saved for the nation yesterday when it was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum for £326,000.

Without the intervention of the art charity, the National Art Collections Fund (NACF), the sculpture would have gone abroad. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is believed to have been among collectors clamouring to buy it if the Oxford museum had been unable to raise the money.

The marble image of a six-year-old boy is by Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), the Antwerp-born master who established himself in the 1720s as the most eminent sculptor working in England. He remains an artist revered for his technical virtuosity.

The sculpture of the boy - particularly rare in that it was not created posthumously - represents Edward Salter, who went on to become Chaplain to Henry, Duke of Gloucester.

Its purchase would not have been possible without the NACF, which is becoming increasingly frustrated that it

is almost singlehandedly saving the nation's treasures. The fund is at the forefront of critics of the Heritage Lottery Fund over its decision to abandon works of art in favour of other causes because its own funding has been slashed.

When the lottery fund rejected the Ashmolean's application for £120,000, the NACF was forced to increase its offer from £98,000 to £170,000.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the NACF, which has been saving works for public collections since 1903, said: "This is the fifth time that we have increased our grant to secure an outstanding work of art which the Heritage Lottery Fund has not been able to support."

"If action isn't taken soon, future generations will wonder why on earth the opportunities were lost and why there was so little public and political outcry at the time."

Heritage groups are opposing plans by the Ashmolean to drape large advertising banners outside the museum. They are concerned about the impact on the architecture.

Can Now To Your Friends areas for Longer...



10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Over 50 and renewing your motor insurance?

FREE 0800 484 184 quoting reference TMB916

Our lines are open 8.30am to 7pm weekdays, and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

See us at SAGA for low cost motor insurance

BP Greener Diesel is cleaner diesel.

BP is committed to improving the quality of our fuels and making a positive contribution to a cleaner environment. Which is why BP Greener Diesel cuts sulphur emissions by 90% and reduces black smoke by nearly a third when you drive. BP Greener Diesel also offers better fuel economy than many other diesel fuels - at no extra cost - and can be used in any diesel vehicle.

It is available now at most BP service stations and is just the first in a range of Greener fuels from BP, all designed to keep your engine running smoothly. By using BP Greener Diesel every time you fill up you can contribute to improving our air quality and environment.

For more information, please call us on 0800 402 402.

LOWER EMISSIONS FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.

Owen embraces Eurosceptics

Pro-Europe but anti-euro group says it would share platform with hardline sceptics, writes James Landale

LORD OWEN, head of the new pro-European but anti-single currency lobby group, admitted at its launch yesterday that he was prepared to share a platform with Tory Eurosceptics.

New Europe is designed to provide a voice for pro-Europeans opposed to the euro who do not want to link themselves with right-of-centre Eurosceptics. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary who led the breakaway Social Democratic Party, insisted the group was deliberately distinguishing itself from existing Eurosceptics. "We are quite unashamedly and unwaveringly supporters of the European Union," he said.

But he did not rule out sharing the platform with anti-EU Tory MPs such as Bill Cash during a referendum campaign. "If I'm opposed to the single currency at that stage, I would be ready to join with others to campaign," he said.

New Europe, in its statement of principles, also admits that it intends to "work closely" with Business for Sterling,

an anti-euro grouping of industry and City interests.

The launch came as the Government began to put into practice plans announced last week to prepare Britain for potential membership. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, told a pro-Europe business conference that he wanted the Government's enterprise fund to be paid in euros. Businesses will also be able to pay patent fees in euros and submit accounts in euros.

The advisory council of New Europe comprises 14 political figures, businessmen, economists and journalists who believe that Britain's membership should not be seen as inevitable. They said: "We do not say never but we cannot foresee, at present, a change in circumstances that would persuade us of the case for joining. We believe that there are significant economic dangers for Britain in joining the euro that would seriously compromise our competitiveness. We are convinced that Britain will continue to flourish within the EU but outside euroland."

Lord Owen said: "There is a different way for Europe, which is more decentralised, more diverse, which is compatible with the treaties. We think that is a natural place for Britain. The advisory council also includes Lord Healey, the former deputy Labour leader, who said: "You don't have to be xenophobic, nationalistic or right-wing to worry about the single currency."

Lord Prior, the former Tory Cabinet minister, said: "I would not have broken with my Europhile friends if I did not believe that staying out of the euro is a matter of supreme importance."

Mary Ann Sieghart, Assistant Editor of *The Times*, who is also on the council, said she had never wanted to join the Eurosceptic "club". But once she discovered other pro-Europeans with "doubts about a single currency", she thought it right to "break cover". Other members of the advisory council include Roger Bootle, managing director of Capital Economics; Ruth Lea, head of the policy unit at the Institute of



Single-minded about the single currency: Lord Prior, Mary Ann Sieghart and Lord Owen at the launch of New Europe

Directors: Sir Ewen Ferguson, former Ambassador to Paris; Martin Taylor, former chief executive of Barclays Bank; Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, former chairman of J Sainsbury; and Janet

Bush, New Europe director and until recently Economics Correspondent of *The Times*. The new group was greeted sceptically by pro-Europeans. One said: "They are just trying to dress up the anti-euro camp

and make them more respectable." Colin Sharman, chairman of KPMG International, said: "Being in the EU but not being in the euro is roughly the equivalent of being half-pregnant. The proposition real-

ly is half-baked and business will not wear it." □ New Europe website: www.new-europe.co.uk E-mail: info@new-europe.co.uk

Business, page 31

MPs in attack on ministers' arrogance

MPs are expected to demand more independence for select committees after growing complaints about ministers' arrogance (Philip Webster writes).

Ministers are also being warned against trying to intimidate backbenchers in an attempt to get an easy ride from the committees. The chairmen of all 27 select committees are being urged to put forward their ideas for reform to the Liaison Select Committee. There was particular anger recently over the Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on arms to Africa which was rubbished by Downing Street before it was published.

Conservative as well as Labour chairmen are calling for the whips to lose control of appointing members of the committees, which is seen as the key way of the executive retaining control.

Lords need more power, not less

The Wakeham commission on the future of the House of Lords that met for the first time yesterday has a choice. It can either deliver the minimalist package which the Government wants, or it can think boldly.

The Government, and most Labour MPs, would like something not very different from the present House but without hereditary peers. It would remain a revising chamber.

and might have a special role in relation to devolved assemblies, Europe and the Human Rights Act. But that would be to miss a big opportunity.

The central issue is powers. The Government's White Paper addresses the paradox that the Lords possesses theoretical powers almost as great as the Commons (apart from financial Bills) but observes self-denying ordinances. The White Paper suggests that the current understandings about self-restraint might be institutionalised, leaving the powers intact but restricting the circumstances when they might be used, or the theoretically available powers might be reduced, though they might be used more often.

This passage was frequently quoted in the two-day, 90-plus speaker debate in the Lords last week. This was the usual mixture of the interesting, the reflective, the confused, the complacent and the downright daft. Lord Belhaven and Stenton, whose title dates to 1647, offered the thought that "democracy is new and comparatively untried. We do not know what will come of it over the decades and centuries to come". Lord Norrie, with a mere 42-year-old title, argued that hereditary peers sat by right

of custom, a principle of English property law.

On a more serious level, Lords Cranborne and Richard, the last two Leaders of the Lords, focused on powers. As Lord Cranborne argued: "Paradoxically, a more authoritative Lords would help the Commons to perform better by forcing it to legislate better and to hold the Government to account more rigorously."

Lord Richard, in the best contribution from the Labour side, noted that the lack of legitimacy means that the Lords cannot perform as effectively as it should. So "in this country we have virtually a unicameral system". On his view, "the aim of reform should be to strengthen the second chamber to the point where it has the legitimacy vis-à-vis the Government of the day to carry out its functions properly but not to threaten the position of the Commons". There should continue to be independent members and no one party should be able to command a majority. But such a second chamber would be bound to become more troublesome to the Commons.

There is also a strong case, as Lord Lamont of Lerwick argued, for the Lords to be given the role of "constitutional long stop" — with the right to insist, by a qualified majority of perhaps two thirds, that constitutional Bills should be considered by a referendum. As Lord Lamont concluded: "If this House is to be liberated from its inhibitions, it should not be afraid to demand more powers." The Wakeham commission now has the chance to make a reformed second chamber a central part of a new constitutional settlement rather than just produce a political fix.

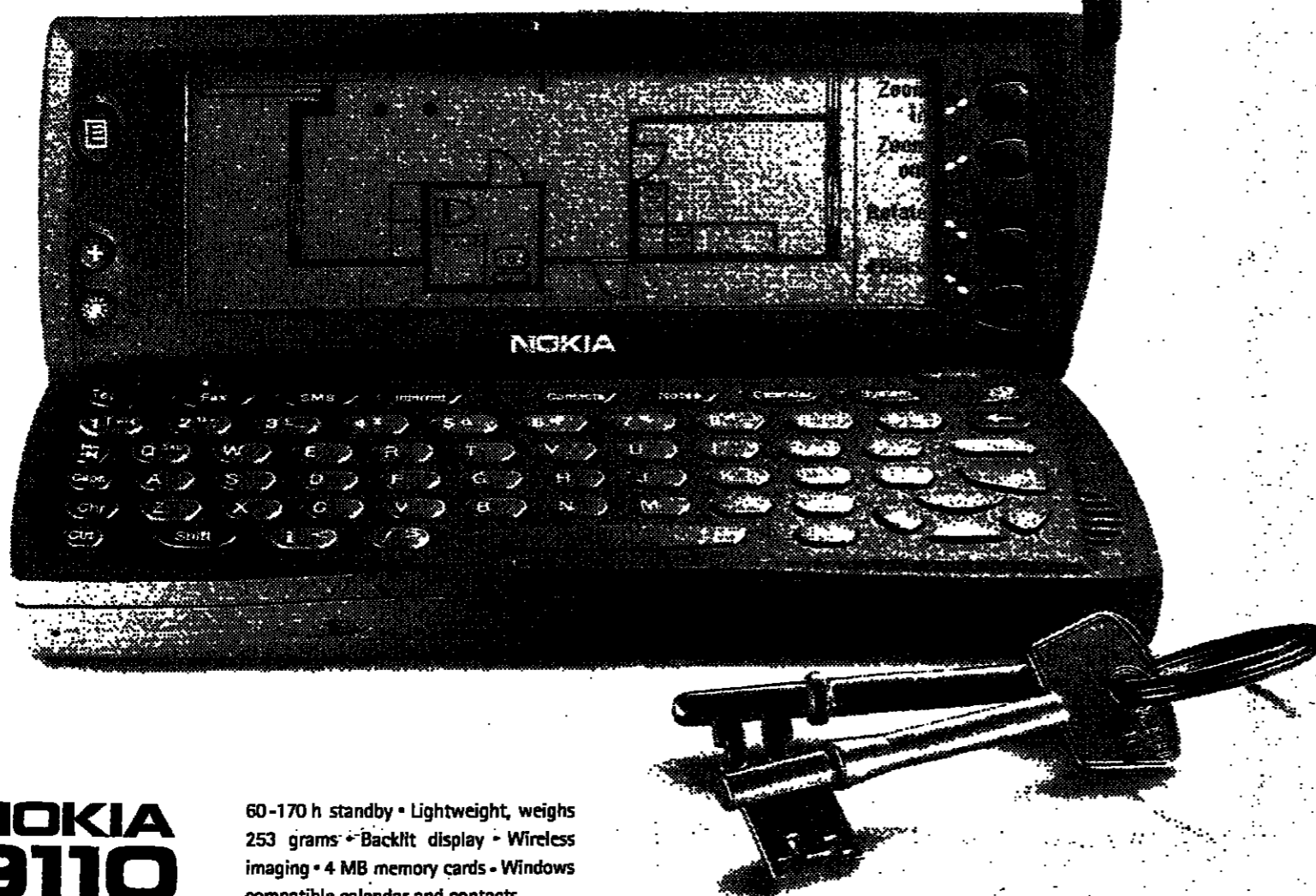
There is also a strong case, as Lord Lamont of Lerwick argued, for the Lords to be given the role of "constitutional long stop" — with the right to insist, by a qualified majority of perhaps two thirds, that constitutional Bills should be considered by a referendum. As Lord Lamont concluded: "If this House is to be liberated from its inhibitions, it should not be afraid to demand more powers." The Wakeham commission now has the chance to make a reformed second chamber a central part of a new constitutional settlement rather than just produce a political fix.

"I can't tell you how many times having the right information at the right time has made the difference between a sale and 'I'll think about it.' When I'm showing a property, I make lots of calls. I also use the Nokia Communicator for all my contact information, and I keep track of appointments in the calendar. I used to need a big briefcase to carry all my papers. Now everything fits in my pocket. And if I need something unexpectedly, I call the office and have them fax me a floor plan, for instance. Often my clients are as interested in my Communicator as they are in the property. I'm sold on it — and some of my clients have bought it too."



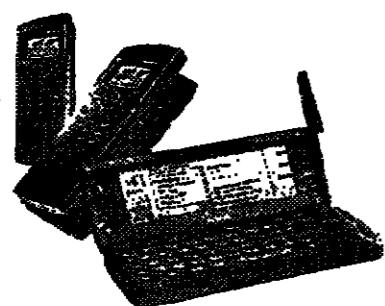
Johanna Radeborn Estate Agent

"Sold."



NOKIA 9110
Communicator

60-170 h standby • Lightweight, weighs 253 grams • Backlit display • Wireless imaging • 4 MB memory cards • Windows compatible calendar and contacts
An easier way to communicate



NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

www.nokia.com

Simply Postal

NOTICE TO INVESTORS
New rates from 2nd March 1999

POSTAL 30	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
min £2,500 up to £25,000	4.55%	4.00%	3.20%
£25,000 up to £50,000	4.55%	4.45%	3.55%
£50,000 up to £100,000	5.55%	5.15%	4.15%
£100,000 up to £200,000	5.75%	5.25%	4.30%
£200,000 up to £400,000	5.95%	5.40%	4.35%
£400,000 up to	6.35%	5.85%	4.65%

POSTAL 180	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
min £1,000 up to £5,000	0.90%	0.90%	0.72%
£5,000 up to £10,000	4.15%	3.65%	2.85%
£10,000 up to £20,000	6.15%	5.65%	4.55%
£20,000 up to £40,000	6.50%	6.00%	4.80%
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.95%	6.45%	5.15%

SIMPLY TESSA	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
£1,000 up to £5,000	6.58%	6.07%	
plus bonus of up to 9% of the first year's investment equivalent to	7.00%	6.50%	

WEST HAM UNITED INVESTMENT A/C	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
min £250 up to £1,000	4.55%	4.05%	3.24%
£1,000 up to £5,000	4.55%	4.15%	3.32%
£5,000 up to £20,000	4.55%	4.45%	3.55%

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS SAVINGS A/C	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
min £1,000 up to £5,000	4.55%	4.15%	3.32%
£5,000 up to £20,000	4.55%	4.45%	3.55%

PRE-ISA FEEDER A/C - Rate held to 31st March 1999	PREVIOUS RATES	NEW RATES	NET
To 31/3/99 min £5,000	6.95%	6.45%	5.15%
From 14/9/99 max £12,000	6.95%	6.45%	5.15%

Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) is the rate which would be paid if interest were paid and added each year. This is only different from the gross rate where interest is not calculated annually. Interest will be payable net of tax at 20% or subject to the required corporation, gross. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds the investor's tax liability if any.

The minimum applied to both the initial investment and balance to be maintained for accounts opened on or after 1st January 1999. All transactions are dealt with by post. RATES SUBJECT TO VARIATION THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF INVESTMENT. <http://www.simplypostal.co.uk>

FREEPHONE 0800 32 66 32
THE BY POST ONLY DIVISION OF LAMBETH
Lambeth
SIMPLY POSTAL, FREEPOST, LONDON SE1 2BR
Postcode: T12 6JG

هكذا من العمل

MPs in attack on ministers' arrogance

Police chiefs 'are shelving racial issues'

Government study criticises lack of action on relations with ethnic minorities, Stewart Tandler reports

CHIEF constables were accused yesterday of shelving race relations reforms and ignoring calls by the Home Office to take the issue seriously. The attack came in a study by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to check on progress made after a report by the inspectorate in 1997 warned forces that they must modernise their race and community relations policies.

The new study drawn up by Dan Crompton, an inspector of constabulary specialising in race issues, found "a lack of visibility by chief officers on the issue of community and race relations" and that "progress has been less than satisfactory with many recommendations [of the initial report] largely sidelined and few forces placing the issue high on their agenda".

The study, *Winning the Race: Policing Plural Communities Revisited*, found that less than half the forces ran checks on racism among staff; that more than a quarter run no checks on the loss of staff from ethnic backgrounds; and that some officers used racist language. Only a quarter of forces were found to have carried out a survey across the whole force on community and race relations work.

The study also found that police officers were not penalised in promotion exams for racist, sexist or homophobic behaviour, and that there was no provision for "negative marking" in national exams for sergeant and inspector ranks. The exams include written sections and tests in mock incidents.

The report also found that training in awareness of ethnic differences, the investigation of race crime and the use of stop-and-search policies have all been marginalised.

The Association of Chief Police Officers is praised for its

POLICE RANKINGS

Positive replies to 27 questions about policing ethnic and gay communities

Suffolk	25
Sussex	23
West Yorks	22
West Yorks	22
Bedfordshire	20
Northants	19
Northants	19
Merseyside	18
Gloucestershire	18
Derbyshire	17
Northumbria	17
West Mercia	17
Hampshire	16
West Midlands	16
Dyfed Powys	16
Humberside	15
Cheshire	14
Greater Manchester	13
North Wales	13
Avon and Somerset	13
Warwick	11
Thames Valley	11
Essex and Devon	10
City of London	9
City of London	9
North Yorks	7

tion after the original report, despite the fact that they knew he would return to review their work and that the Macpherson report could be highly critical of police.

He gave warning that, unless forces recognised the importance of community relations, communities could become antagonistic and difficult to police.

John Newing, the president of the ACPO and the chief constable of the Derbyshire force, acknowledged the report's recognition that some good work was being done, but admitted there was still a great deal more to do.

He said that ACPO was preparing a racial diversity strategy drawing on the best work going on in all forces, aimed at eliminating racism through education, training, positive management and "stringent disciplinary measures".

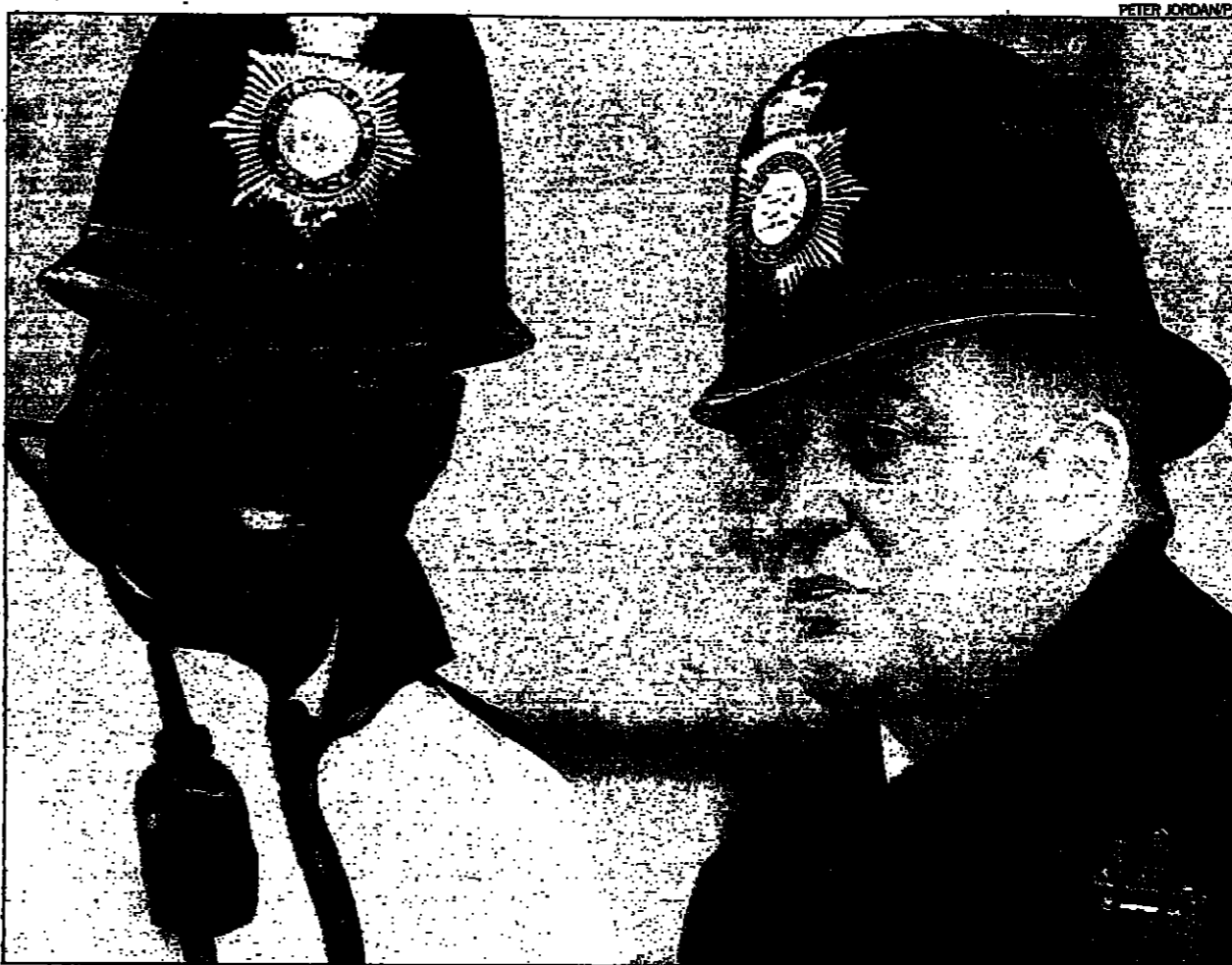
The Police Federation of England and Wales, which represents 125,000 lower ranks, said that officers were responding positively to race issues.

Fred Broughton, the federation's chairman, said that progress had been hampered by chief officers focusing "slavishly" on performance targets for solving crimes such as burglary and car theft, efficiency savings and withdrawing officers from street patrols.

Mr Broughton said that the majority of the public still held police in high regard, despite the results of the Macpherson report.

The National Black Police Association said that the new report's conclusions were not surprising, and that there was a need for immediate improvement.

US chief sacked, page 15
Letters, page 23
Law report, page 41



Working together: fewer than half of the forces surveyed carried out checks on racism among their staff

Small target at a Met wins praise big risk of attack for its progress

By TIM JONES

By STEWART TANDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CUMBRIA has a tiny ethnic minority community but its members are suffering an increasing number of racist attacks.

The police force in the largely rural county has failed, however, to respond to the problem.

In the Inspector of Constabulary's report, Cumbria Constabulary admits to having taken no action on 20 of the 29 questions posed in the survey on race-related policing, and says it has no community and race-relations strategy.

Colin Phillips, the Chief Constable, in a bland press release issued yesterday, said: "We are always looking to improve and we will do all we can to ensure that we demonstrate fairness and equality in the way we use our powers."

Out of a population of 490,145 in Cumbria, there are only 492 black people, 492 Asian people and 984 people of other ethnic minority origins. They mostly have homes

and businesses in Carlisle or along the coast in towns such as Workington.

The latest Home Office figures show that the number of racial incidents in Cumbria rose to 46 in 1997-98, compared with 17 in 1993-94. This means that a member of an ethnic minority in Cumbria has a one in 50 chance of being attacked by racists.

Mark Johnson, a race-relations researcher at De Montfort University, said: "The police in Cumbria need to recognise that race may be a motive for an attack even when there is no prima-facie evidence."

Dr Johnson, director of the Mary Seacole unit which conducts research on racism and is named after a black heroine who was a nurse during the Crimean War, said: "Some racists are not prepared to contribute to their communities and find it easier instead to hurl abuse at people from the ethnic community who are prepared to work hard."

THE Metropolitan Police and its Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, won praise for their race relations strategy yesterday, less than a week after the force was heavily criticised by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Scotland Yard is one of four police forces commended for progress on race relations and good leadership by a national study. The others are Bedfordshire, West Yorkshire and South Wales.

All three are in the top ten for racial awareness of the 43 forces in England and Wales, according to a league table drawn up by *Winning the Race: Policing Plural Communities Revisited*, produced by the Inspectorate of Constabulary. The study charts progress in race relations since a report published in October 1997. A team led by Dan Crompton, a former Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, visited a sample of 14 forces.

They also wrote to every other

force in England and Wales to see how they had responded to the original report's recommendations.

Cleveland, Hertfordshire and Sir Paul's force won praise for work on forward thinking about population changes. Leicestershire was also commended by Mr Crompton, as was South Wales for training policy.

But Merseyside and the West Midlands police, both big urban forces, were criticised for their overall lack of progress. The survey showed that the West Midlands force had no race and community relations strategy although it has the second biggest ethnic-minority community after London. Merseyside did not have policies to support staff from ethnic minorities.

Mr Crompton also criticised Cumbria and North Yorkshire, both forces with relatively small ethnic-minority communities, for their failure to adopt new policies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GP denies five more murders

The family doctor accused of murdering 15 patients denied killing five of them yesterday. Harold Shipman, 53, answered "not guilty" at Manchester Crown Court as the five charges were put to him while his wife, Primrose, watched without apparent emotion.

Dr Shipman has already denied killing four other patients on his panel at his surgery in Hyde, Greater Manchester, and forging the will of one of them. He has been committed for trial at Crown Court on those charges. The rest of the charges will be considered at a committal hearing next week. All the cases relate to middle-aged or elderly women from the Hyde area. His trial is due to start on October 4.

Pool death fine

Michael Westmore, the owner of the Pentire Hotel in Newquay, Cornwall, has been fined £3,000 after a six-year-old holidaymaker died in the hotel pool in 1997. Bodmin magistrates were told that the water was too cloudy for the boy to be seen drowning.

Eton funeral

Eton schoolboys and family friends packed into Christ Church, Esher, Surrey, for the funeral of Nicholas Taylor, found hanged in his room at the college. The order of service for the 15-year-old cricket fan was entitled "Batting Order for Our Darling Nick".

Letter bomb

A woman aged 18 and her baby were taken to hospital suffering from shock after a letter bomb exploded at their home in Pitsea, Essex, shattering windows. Bomb disposal experts searched the area. Two male occupants were not injured in the incident.

Snail handicap

A rare snail, the 2mm *Verigo augustior*, threatens to thwart plans for a multimillion-pound golf complex designed by Greg Norman at Doonbeg, Co. Clare. Environmentalists have launched three appeals against the decision to approve the development.

that feeling of sliding
into the smallest
space in the street
now comes
with



FIAT SEICENTO MIA
Phone: 0800 71 7000 www.fiat.co.uk

FIAT

Nose job
£1.



Sainsbury's

The Comic Relief Red Hooter. Available from Sainsbury's, Savacentre & Homebase.



70p from the sale of each nose will go to Comic Relief. Registered Charity No. 326568

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. EROE, Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Tim Computers Limited is part of the IT group. Offers subject to availability. *Not for sale in the U.S. and Canada.

Murnaghan will stand in for McDonald when he is away, and Katie Derham, the ITN media correspondent, will stand in for Murnaghan. □ When Trevor McDonald closes with a final "And finally" on Friday, Sky News will leap into what it sees as a market gap by launching its own 10pm news programme. BSkyB, an associate company of News International, owner of *The Times*, yesterday announced that it will start *Sky News at Ten* on March 8.

The Bafta awards ceremony will be held at the Business Design Centre in North London on April 11, and be televised that evening on BBC1. The Oscar winners are announced on March 21.

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301
Website: www.open.ac.uk/adverts/

[illegible]

هكذا من الأهل

We still need Smiley's people says Le Carré

The Cold War is over but the spy writer believes the Secret Service has a vital role, reports Michael Evans

SPY should not come in from the cold, despite East-West détente, the spy writer John Le Carré said. The former MI6 intelligence officer declared in a rare lecture that spies are needed more than ever.

Le Carré, who flourished as an author during the Cold War era of espionage and intrigue, said that when the world's power blocs were split between East and West, spying was an easier business. Now, with the former Soviet Union fragmented, Britain's spies had a tough challenge to keep pace with the proliferation of problems in many of the world's smaller countries.

"There is plenty of scope for intelligence work," he said during a lecture at the Liverpool Unity Theatre. "In the future, I

think the great burden of intelligence work will be counter-terrorist, from wherever the terrorist threat comes. It will also be concerned with international crime on a grand scale."

The author, whose latest novel, *Single & Single*, has just been published, worked for both MI5 and MI6.

Last month he ended a long-standing mystery when he revealed that George Smiley, his most famous fictional hero, celebrated in such books as *Smiley's People*, was not modelled on the former MI6 chief Sir Maurice Oldfield, as had been supposed. He said that the character had been partly based on the late John Bingham, the 7th Baron Clanmorris. Bingham, who served with MI6, was known in the intelligence community as "Lord Clandestine".

In the literary lecture, Le Carré said: "The secret services simply have to remain responsive and responsible and very much under the control of parliamentary democracy. I don't think there is a case for saying they should not exist any more."

"We expect them to find out who is going to blow us up next and if they don't do it, we say they are inefficient, but we don't say that we should abolish them."

MI6, like other sections of the security and intelligence world, has suffered cuts since

the end of the Cold War and now has an annual budget of about £150 million and a staff of fewer than 2,000.

Le Carré, whose real name is David Cornwell, poured scorn on Western governments that had allowed the Cold War to continue for so long. He said: "We failed to embrace the former Soviet empire. We failed to give them their dignity."

"Instead, there was a shameful expectation on our side, particularly the American side, that if we gave them enough pairs of jeans and enough rock music and had McDonald's there, somehow they would find private enterprise for themselves."

"They didn't do that. They found crime."



Le Carré said spies must fight terrorism and crime

Plankton could help to reverse global warming

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

FERTILISING the sea with iron filings dramatically accelerates the growth of plant plankton, which absorb large amounts of greenhouse gases, an experiment in the Southern Ocean has shown.

Researchers who had spent the month spreading filings over 19 square miles of Antarctic waters 2,500 miles southwest of New Zealand returned to Wellington yesterday enthusiastic about the results.

Rob Murdoch, of the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, said: "Not only did the numbers of phytoplankton bloom extensively but they were responsible for absorption of a significantly greater amount of carbon dioxide during the study period compared with the sea outside the area," he said. "The plankton in the growing patch also produced significant quantities of gases known to be important in cloud formation."

The aim of the research was to see whether the filings would replenish stocks of plankton, which form the foundation of the ocean food chain, and to discover whether the microscopic plants captured excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and contributed to cloud build-up.

The late John Martin, an American oceanographer, theorised in 1995 that phytoplankton needed iron in order to take nitrogen and phosphate from seawater, just as farm crops need trace minerals such as zinc and manganese.

Subsequent experiments showed that half a ton of iron filings triggered 30-fold to 40-fold increases in plankton stocks over areas of up to 193 square miles. This resulted in up to 9,000 tons of carbon dioxide being "locked up", and a three-fold increase in dimethyl sulphide particles, which have a key role in cloud formation.

Scientists believe that if the fertilisation could be done on a large enough scale in the Southern Ocean it could reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere by between 6 per cent and 21 per cent, significantly cooling the planet.



Anna Molinari is feted on the catwalk after her Blumarine show in Milan yesterday

Milan shows no fear when it comes to fur

FROM DEBORAH BRETT IN MILAN

ITALIAN fashion has never succumbed to anti-fur pressure and the women of Milan refuse to venture out in winter without their fur coats.

Anna Molinari's diffusion label, Blumarine, continued the love affair with a show yesterday that had mink trimmings on scoop-neck jumpers, coat collars, jumper cuffs, even inside parka hoods. The soft-sell came in every colour — from candy floss pink and sky blue to icicle white.

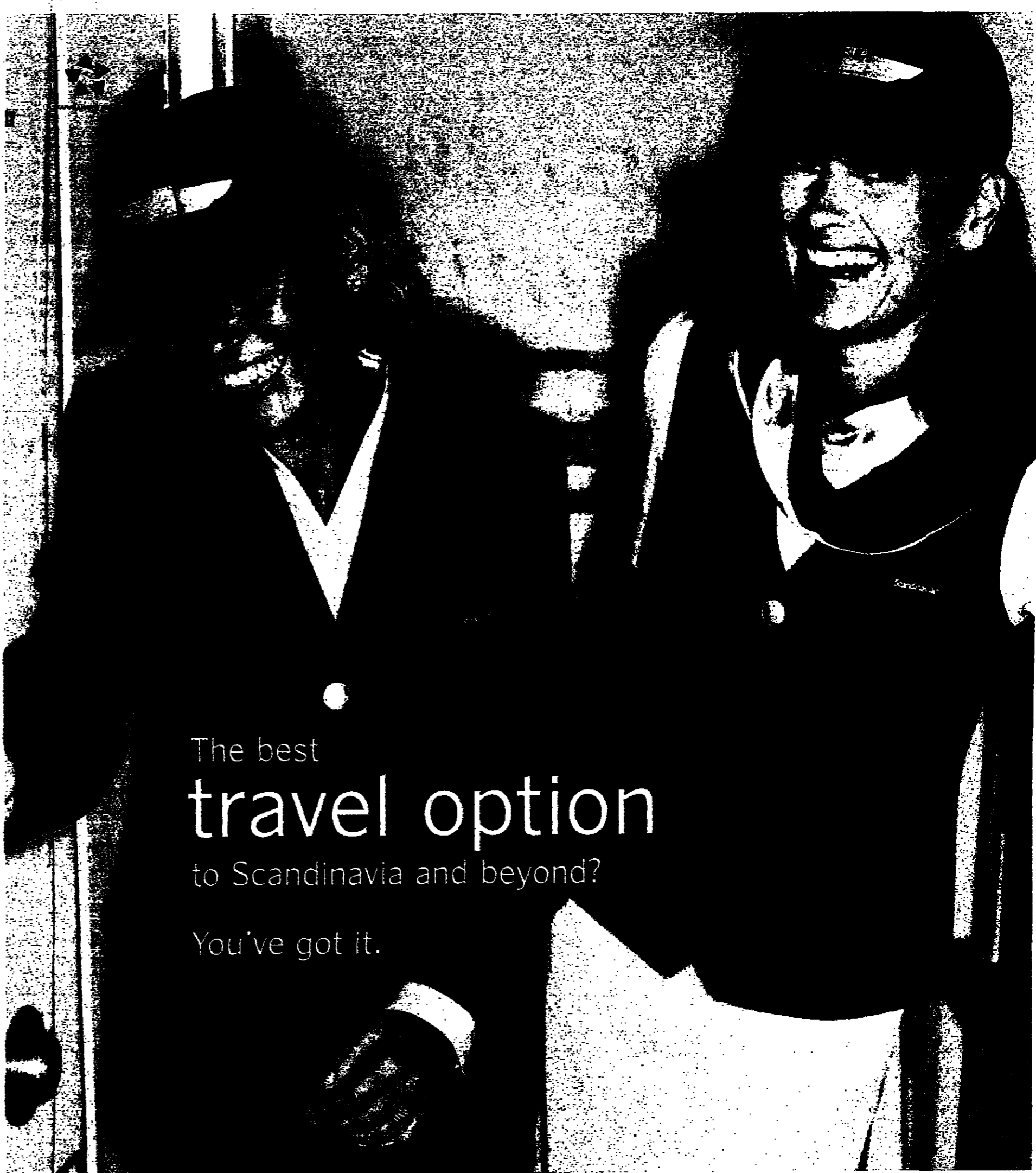
Blumarine girls still haven't grown up and yesterday looked as if they had been trawling through their mother's dressing room — in bright-red lips and green eye-shadow thickly applied. The year of influence was impossible to pin down: Molinari had decided to pick and choose from Twenties flapper girl, Fifties prom queen and Seventies rock chick.

Giorgio Armani was also in age-defying mood yesterday, at the age of 64, he has made his younger line even younger. There was not a suit in sight, let alone his trademark beige, at the Emporio Armani show. Instead, next winter, fans of Mr Minimalist will be in a pared-down version of urban chic.

The theme may have been colour, with an abundance of aqua, turquoise, sea green and red, but this was only for accessories: the core clothes were in every shade of grey.

With the emphasis on sportswear, there were detachable hoods, Velcro-fastening trousers, and leather jackets with elongated arm zips. Accessories for the urban warrior included shoes made from thick elastic strips and pouch bags.

Armani's signature detailing came only towards the end of the show, with beading — normally seen edging scarves and jacket lapels — sewn in strips to the top edge of nude bodystockings.



The best travel option to Scandinavia and beyond? You've got it.

Your best choice for travel to Scandinavia is the SAS route network. Non-stop from Heathrow or Stansted to Stockholm, Copenhagen or Oslo, and then onward within Scandinavia.

We also open up global travel for you, as the SAS route network serves more than 100 destinations, and with our Star Alliance™ partners we serve more than 720 destinations in 110 countries.

If you're a member of SAS EuroBonus, voted by InsideFlyer magazine as the world's best international frequent-flyer programme, you earn points when you fly with us and our partners, as well as with Radisson SAS Hotels. Earning points is easier than ever, and you can exchange them for bonus trips, hotel stays and exclusive EuroBonus leisure offers.

For more information about SAS, give us a ring on 0845 60 727 727 or visit www.sas.se - we're looking forward to seeing you on board soon!

It's pure Scandinavian



Scandinavian Airlines



Have the figure you want or your money back.

Now discover you can lose inches exactly where you want. New to the UK, the unique Figurella method has worked for thousands of women all over Europe by creating for each individual a personal programme of specifically localised, light exercise and life-style evaluation.

With a Figurella Personal Adviser behind you every time you visit, we guarantee you'll lose it. Or your money back.



FOR A FREE ADVICE SESSION CALL 0171 355 2929
New Bond Street & Guildford

ars sequel

ortgage
£16,000
in control?

SAGE
85 83

US appeals for calm after raids on Israel border

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE United States yesterday sent urgent diplomatic messages to Israel, Syria and Lebanon, urging restraint in the new crisis along Israel's northern border in an attempt to prevent tension in the region escalating.

The messages were sanctioned by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and reflected the gravity with which Washington views the situation after the killing on Sunday of an Israeli general, a subsequent cross-border rocket attack and Israel's vow of retaliation "by land, sea and air" against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas.

The American intervention came as Israel's security Cabinet met in emergency session and vowed instant and wide-scale action if Hezbollah fired more rockets into northern Galilee in retaliation for punishing Israeli strikes. Those

strikes were launched deep into Lebanon after the killing of General Erez Gerstein, 32, One of Israel's most famous war correspondents, Mr Roeh was buried yesterday at a funeral attended by thousands.

Israeli officials, mindful of the American call and damaging international publicity in 1996, caused by Operation Grapes of Wrath — Israel's last widespread Lebanon offensive in which some 200 people were killed — said that the Israel Defence Force would not step up attacks if the guerrillas refrained from firing rockets into Israel.

That decision was not popular with many Israelis living in the northern area. They left shelters and sealed rooms at 2pm yesterday after an "all clear" ended an alert that had lasted 24 hours and ruined the start of the festival of Purim.

Thousands fled homes and hotels to spend the holiday out of Kanyasha rocket range. Many who stayed in the bleak town of Kiryat Shmona urged the Government to launch a massive offensive.

After a three-hour Cabinet session, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, announced that Israel was ready to strike at more Hezbollah targets, but refused to order the immediate offensive demanded by some Cabinet members, including Avidor Kahalani, his Interior Security Minister. There is a threat of escalating violence with Syria as President Assad keeps 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

The death of seven Israelis in a week has made Israel's Lebanon policy a key election issue, with Yossi Beilin, a leading member of the opposition Labour Party, heading a campaign for a swift withdrawal.



A Shia Muslim guerrilla preparing yesterday for the threatened Israeli offensive

Civilians in buffer zone wait stoically for big offensive

FROM NICHOLAS BLANFORD IN TIBNINE

THE war-weary residents of south Lebanon were nervously braced for the onslaught of the Israeli military machine yesterday but the threat of a massive assault against the Hezbollah organisation failed to materialise.

Hours after Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein was killed by Hezbollah guerrillas on Sunday, warplanes staged air raids in frontline areas as Israel vowed to unleash an air, sea and ground offensive.

Tension remains high throughout the occupied border zone. The skies above Tibnine were filled with the roar of Israeli F16 aircraft and the buzz of pilotless observation planes.

In the village of Siddiqine, Mehdi Zaarour, 48, said: "It cannot get any worse for us than it already is here... we are used to being shelled by the Israelis, it is a daily occurrence."

Siddiqine is near the village of Qana, where 107 civil-

ians were killed when Israel shelled a UN base during the 16-day Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996. "Forty-eight people from Siddiqine were killed in Qana. What more can Israel do to us?" said Mr Zaarour.

Schools were closed yesterday and children were told to remain close to village bomb shelters.

In the village of Majdal Siltm, which frequently bears the brunt of Israeli shelling, almost half the residents had fled in fear of an offensive.

"We are afraid [and] it's very tense," said Nahla Salloom, 44, one of several women watching over children outside the village's bomb shelter. "I will stay because this is my village, my land and my country. The Israelis will never force me to leave."

Maryam Zahwi, 20, said that Israel would never defeat the Lebanese. "They have their planes and missiles, but we have our resistance and our faith," she said.

No other communications supplier can tick all the boxes.

- ✓ BT's ISDN allows you to send and receive large amounts of information via your PC in seconds.
- ✓ BT is committed to saving your business money — we've cut call prices 13 times in the last two years.
- ✓ We were the first communications supplier in the UK to provide a Customer Service Guarantee scheme which offers compensation if we miss an appointment for installation or repair.
- ✓ BT has business account managers who can speak to many of our ethnic customers in their own language.
- ✓ BT spends £280 million every year on research and development in the UK, as part of our commitment to bring customers innovative products and services.
- ✓ With 4,000 products in our UK portfolio, our business team provide a one-stop shop for every communications need, from telephone lines to complex data solutions.
- ✓ BT has a range of business discount plans which can save you money whenever you call.
- ✓ BT tests millions of lines every night to make sure they're in good working order.
- ✓ BT's call charging accuracy has British Approvals Board for Telecommunications approval.

- ✓ In business we know efficiency is vital, that's why we have 53,000 engineers working around the clock to ensure our quality of service is second to none.
- ✓ We've invested £27 billion in our network over the last 14 years. Not only does that mean we offer a reliable service today, but we'll be capable of coping with the technology of tomorrow.
- ✓ We ensure that 99.82% of all the calls we handle get through successfully, and we're constantly working to improve this figure.
- ✓ With BT's per second pricing, you only pay for the time you talk (minimum charge 5p per call).
- ✓ Whatever size your enterprise — from small startup to global conglomerate — we have products, services and discount packages to suit your individual needs.
- ✓ BT Contract Rentals allow your business to benefit from using the most advanced products whilst enabling you to spread the costs over time.
- ✓ With 140,000 BT payphones from Lands End to John O'Groats, you can keep in touch whenever you're on the move.

No wonder thousands of businesses come back to BT every month.

Some telecoms companies can offer you some of these things. But only BT can offer all of them. In fact in a recent FORTUNE* magazine survey* of the world's most admired telecoms companies, BT ranked the highest in Europe. To find out more about these and the many other reasons why businesses large and small are choosing to be with BT, call **Freefone 0800 800 800** or visit us at www.bt.com/thousands

The World's Most Admired Companies, FORTUNE magazine, 26th October 1998.

BT

WORLD IN BRIEF

Religious riots in Indonesia kill ten

Ambon, Indonesia: At least ten people died as new clashes between Christians and Muslims rocked the Indonesian island of Ambon. Six people were tortured to death in one clash and another four were killed as security forces opened fire near a mosque. The official Antara news agency said the first deaths occurred after homemade bombs exploded. The agency added that low-ranking policemen had allegedly incited the mob.

Local journalists said the other incident happened at about dawn as Christians attacked the city's eastern Banu Merah district and Muslims fought back. Security forces then arrived and opened fire, they said. One witness said the police opened fire without warning on Muslims leaving the al-Huda mosque.

General Wiranto, the armed forces' commander, has launched a crack anti-riot force to quell what he called the most "brutal rioting" in Indonesia's history. (Reuters)

Cuba dissidents on trial

Four of Cuba's most prominent political dissidents, including Vladimir Roca, went on trial behind closed doors in Havana on charges of sedition stemming from the publication of a document in 1997 that criticised government policies (David Adams writes). Tight security was enforced to keep away demonstrators, and dissident groups in Cuba say at least 34 opposition activists have been rounded up by police recently to limit any possible protest. Others are under virtual house arrest.

Greek Ocalan protest

The statue of a Greek philosopher outside Athens University, right, has been blindfolded by art students to show their support for Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader, Turkey is to allow a Norwegian parliamentary delegation to attend Mr Ocalan's treason trial after turning down other international requests. Lars Rise, a Norwegian MP, said the invitation was made by Uluc Gurkan, the vice-president of Turkey's national assembly, on condition that the Norwegians did not call themselves observers. (Reuters)



Sydney terror warning

Sydney: The Islamic terrorist, Osama bin Laden, may target the Sydney Olympics next year because of Australia's friendship with the United States, Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, said (David Watts writes). A large contingent of American athletes and spectators could make the Games an attractive target, said Mr Freeh, who is in Australia advising the Government on anti-terrorism and anti-drug strategies. Australia has been free of Middle East-related terrorism.

Rebels 'slaughter 1,000'

Freeport: About 1,000 civilians died, mostly murdered by rebels, during a six-week Revolutionary United Front occupation of Waterloo, a town near the Sierra Leonean capital, according to Ansumana Kargbo, a headman. He said most of those who died had fled into the bush when the rebels were chased from the capital last month. Troops from Ecomog, the Nigerian-led regional intervention force, backed by civil defence groups, retook Freeport last month and recaptured Waterloo last week. (AFP)

Mines treaty enforced



Oslo: Jody Williams, left, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, urged all nations to ratify an anti-landmine treaty as it came into force yesterday, and hailed her award as a boost for the cause. Mrs Williams, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said that 134 countries had signed and 65 had ratified the treaty, aimed at removing an estimated 100 million landmines in at least 60 countries. The treaty, concluded here in September 1997, was opened for signature in Ottawa the following December. (Reuters)

Seven die in rough seas

Lisbon: Seven crewmen died and one was missing last night after they abandoned their crippled cargo ship in rough seas off the Azores in the North Atlantic. The three remaining crew survived. A passing Japanese merchant vessel picked up four crew from a lifeboat. The men had abandoned the *Sky Bird*, a container ship, officials said. However, one of the men in the raft was dead. Six other crew who jumped into the sea were found dead in the water, while a search went on for the missing man. (AP)

هكذا من الظلم

China vents its anger over Taiwan

Beijing accuses Pentagon of pushing arms sales, writes James Pringle

ON THE second day of a strained visit to China by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, Beijing launched a furious attack on America over Pentagon reports that the Chinese were building a major missile force with the intention of intimidating Taiwan.

Zhu Bangzao, for the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday that the Pentagon report on the military situation in the Taiwan Strait was a "serious interference in China's internal affairs". The official Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying: "China expressed its serious dissatisfaction and resolute opposition."

Xinhua added that the report was part of an American plan to step up sales to Taiwan of advanced weapons such as ballistic and cruise missiles.

The Pentagon assessment—sent to Congress last week and released on Friday—did not imply that Beijing was planning to carry out an attack against Taiwan and noted that the situation in the Taiwan Strait was calm. However, it did emphasise that Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, has refused to renounce the use of force against the offshore island.

Analysts believe that, in the event of a military confrontation breaking out, Beijing could overwhelm Taiwan's



Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, at the conclusion of their joint press conference in Beijing yesterday

current missile defences and superior air force by 2005, thanks to the sheer weight of numbers of its weapons.

American law allows sales of defensive arms to Taiwan despite both Washington's transfer of diplomatic ties to Beijing in 1979 and China's opposition to any arms sales to the island. Washington has angered Beijing by selling F16 warplanes, Patriot missiles and other advanced weapons to Taipei.

In an illustration of the blunt nature of the current Sino-American dialogue, Ms

Albright said at a joint press conference with her Chinese opposite number that Washington deplored Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy activists, while Tan Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, accused the US of "wantonly interfering in other countries' affairs".

Mr Tang added: "A handful of anti-China elements within the United States is going all out to interfere with and obstruct the normal development of China-US relations."

"We have always been opposed to politicising the

human rights question and to wantonly interfering in other countries' affairs by using human rights questions as an excuse," he added.

But Ms Albright, who yesterday also met Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, said that human rights were a "question of grave concern".

In a reference to the crackdown on dissent that began late last year, and continued this past weekend with the detention or jailing of several dissidents, Ms Albright added: "We have deplored the actions that have taken place recently

and I will raise those issues with the Foreign Minister."

Last Friday the US State Department released an annual report saying that human rights deteriorated sharply in China last year. Quarrels over human rights, satellite sales and defence policy show that the goodwill from summit meetings in the past two years between President Clinton and his Chinese opposite number, Jiang Zemin, did not lead to a unified point of view.

But Ms Albright and Mr Tang also said that, in the long term, relations had improved

and they were committed to narrowing the differences between their countries. China yesterday issued a critique of human rights in America, emphasising its rampant gun violence, overcrowded prisons, racial discrimination and poverty.

Meanwhile, an activist in southern China yesterday launched a second opposition party, the China Rights Party, which aimed to promote civil rights. The earlier China Democracy Party, launched last year, has been under severe attack from Chinese security

agencies, with several leaders being given long jail terms. □ Out in open China has jettisoned all Beijing's foreigner-restricted areas—set up in 1958 to protect "state secrets". Foreigners found in the areas, marked by 118 checkpoints and usually containing military barracks or accommodation for top-level officials, would be removed. Some were deported. Most areas were opened in 1985, since when all but two of the last restrictions had gone. Last year about 2.13 million foreigners visited the city. (AFP)

Military maverick declared Nigeria poll victor

General must show he is not army stooge, writes Sam Kiley in Lagos

THE former Nigerian military leader General Olusegun Obasanjo was returned to power as an elected civilian President yesterday by a huge margin, amid accusations of vote rigging and cheating from his rival and international monitors. Olu Falae, the loser, called the elections a farce.

Jimmy Carter, former US President and leader of an observer team, agreed that there were widespread irregularities. But cheating was not confined to General Obasanjo's

supporters in the People's Democratic Party. Mr Falae's All People's Party was equally at fault, according to the Nigerian Transition Monitoring Group, which deployed 10,700 observers across the country.

General Obasanjo pledged to continue the process of democracy and said that he did not believe that any elections

could be perfect after his 63 per cent win was formally announced. Nigerians will now be looking to the general to make good his campaign pledge to stamp out corruption and show that he is no stooge of the armed forces, anxious to keep a handle on power.

To many members of his own Yoruba tribe of the south-

west in particular, he is nothing more than a stalking horse for a northerner-dominated military unwilling to leave Nigeria's political stage open to civilians. To his supporters in the north, he will be a trustworthy custodian of their interests. He has allowed them to let go control of the presidency and favour a power shift to the south without risking a national fragmentation.

However, the general has a habit of confounding both his critics and his fans.

Born to humble farmers in 1937, General Obasanjo finished his high-school education, but was too poor to take up a university place. Like many growing up in the transition from British colonial rule to independence in October 1960, he saw a future for himself in the army, which provided an education at the Mons Officers' Cadet School in England, and engineer training in Shrinvenham, Oxfordshire. Service with the

United Nations in Congo was followed by the Biafran War in 1967.

It was in Biafra where he earned national recognition in a daring, maverick manoeuvre. Ignoring orders from Lagos and the operational plans of a rival divisional commander to the north of secessionist Biafra, the then Colo-

nel Obasanjo launched a surprise attack on the breakaway region, forced a surrender and emerged a national hero—much to the irritation of Nigeria's generals and other divisional commanders.

"It was a shock and embarrassment that, while we were waiting for our own D-Day which had been planned for January 15, he invaded from

the south and got all the glory," said retired Major-General Theophilus Danjuma, then a colonel and now a close friend tipped to be Defence Minister. General Obasanjo, 61, has been President before, when he took over after a military leader, Murtala Muhammed, was assassinated in 1975.

Four years later he became the only military dictator to hand power back voluntarily to civilians: General Abdulsalam Abubakar will hand the presidency to General Obasanjo at the end of May. The latter's relative poverty, and role as a Commonwealth emissary to apartheid South Africa have ensured him international and domestic credibility.

"One cannot help feeling that he's probably the only person around who might be able to do the job," said Karl Maier, an observer at the elections and West Africa analyst.

Leading article, page 23

RESULTS

Official voting figures:
Obasanjo: 18,738,000 (62.8%)
Falae: 11,110,000 (37.2%)



Obasanjo: has vowed to stamp out corruption

A couple (male and female) both non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a FFP mortgage of £50,000 secured over 25 years on a property with a purchase price of £57,000. Assuming a discounted mortgage completed on 10th May 1999 with consequences charges £117.50, solicitors fee £165, mortgage discharge fee £25, deeds dispatch fee £25, initial interest £20.35 and also that mortgage repaid at end of mortgage term and interest rate of 3.69% 5.75% APR applies throughout the mortgage term. (In practice, the discount of 2.55% ends on 30th April 2001, and we charge our full variable base rate from then on. This is currently 6.59%). Monthly mortgage payment £171.00 after tax relief 300 monthly payments. Monthly FFP payments £22.78. Total amount payable £114,072. Calls may be recorded and monitored. You must be aged 18 or over and give us a mortgage over your property. We may need additional mortgage security. We will take into account your personal and financial circumstances and the value or price of your property. These and the product you choose will affect how much we lend you, how much contribution towards valuation fees you may get and what, if any, additional mortgage security fee, arrangement fee and repayment fee you have to pay. This product or offer is only available to customers remortgaging and all home buyers. Our products and offers are subject to conditions. We can withdraw them without notice. For more details and further questions, ask at your local office. With discounted rates, the special interest rate will only apply during the special rate period. The special rate period will end on 30th April 2001. If you repay a special rate loan before the end of the special rate period, we will charge you a repayment fee. The repayment fee period will end on 30th April 2001. The repayment fee will be a percentage of the special rate loan amount. We have worked out the APRs assuming that the rate applies throughout the mortgage term. In practice, we charge a variable base interest rate at the end of any special rate period. This service is not available for mortgages on property on the Isle of Man. Our final decision to lend depends on the value or price of your property.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Halifax plc represents only the Halifax Financial Services Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

15 MINUTE MORTGAGE PROMISE

Spend time looking for a home, not a mortgage.

In a quarter of an hour you can get the promise of a mortgage – and a very enviable one as our rates are extremely attractive – you'll know how much you can borrow and how much you can spend. You'll know if you can put in an offer on a house immediately and none of this will cost you a penny.

£171 PER MONTH 3.7% APR
*BASED ON £50,000 LOAN, NO ARRANGEMENT FEE.

CALL 0800 20 30 49

Lines open 8am–8pm 7 days a week or drop into your local branch.



Get a little extra help.

Police had to rescue Anwar in cell attack

By DAVID WATTS

ANWAR IBRAHIM was lucky to escape with his life when he was assaulted while handcuffed and blindfolded by the then Malaysian chief of police last year. The commission of inquiry into the beating has already heard medical testimony that his injuries were potentially fatal.

Yesterday Yacob Muhammad Amin, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department, testified that he and his deputy had to pull Rahim Noor, the police chief, off the former Deputy Prime Minister to stop the assault.

Mr Yacob said that he was outside the cell when he heard a voice in Malay saying: "Don't hit me". He and his deputy, Ramli Yusof, rushed inside. "Then I saw Tan Sri Rahim [Noor]. I grabbed his belt and pulled him with my right hand towards me, with my left hand holding the bar of the cell... Kamil was pushing Rahim away and I pushed Rahim out of the cell. We had to get Rahim out of the cell."

All this happened on a day when the police chief later assured the foreign press that Mr Anwar was "safe and well".

Halim Mansar, a forensic science expert at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, examined Mr Anwar four days after the assault and he testified that there were multiple injuries that were "very dangerous for the victim. The extent of the injuries was very severe".



No Gimmicks, No Games, Just simple savings on your phone bill.

• Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Pre-Pay
• No need to change your phone or phone number

What would you expect from the fastest growing telecoms carrier in the world?

Communications Week International

PRIMUS
GLOBAL network GLOBAL savings GLOBAL sense

Call free on 0800 036 0007

All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per minute, and have been rounded to the nearest penny. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds; there after in sixty second increments. Calls from payphones and mobile phones may be subject to a surcharge. Paying by Direct Debit is subject to status.

NATIONAL RATES	5p
AUSTRIA	10p
CHINA	35p
HONG KONG	12p
INDIA	48p
ISRAEL	15p
JAPAN	16p
MALAYSIA	20p
MAURITIUS	40p
NZ, OZ	13p
RUSSIA	30p
SINGAPORE	18p
SOUTH AFRICA	31p
THAILAND	40p
UAE	38p
USA	7p

مكتبة النور

‘Stolen’ children sue the state for damages

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Car fumes make Los Angeles the cancer capital

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

CANCER-CAUSING chemicals in car exhaust fumes have left residents of Los Angeles hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows, according to a government study that is likely to send shock-waves through the healthcare and automotive industries.

The congressional study of air quality in America's second-largest city, published yesterday, reveals airborne carcinogens at levels 426 times higher than those established as safe nine years ago.

The alarming figures "should give a jolt" to the city, a spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Defence Council in Washington, said. "We know our air is dirty, but now we know in black and white that it's toxic too," he added.

Los Angeles smog, which for decades has driven film stars to the coast for the relief

brought by onshore breezes, has already prompted the nation's toughest car emissions standards.

But yesterday's report showed that little has been done to curb invisible compounds in vehicle exhaust that target internal organs and may be behind the region's stubbornly high cancer levels.

Butadiene, benzene and formaldehyde cause tumours in human lungs, breasts, ovaries, livers, thyroid glands, testes and other organs, tests have shown.

All three are present at unusually high levels in the air over the Los Angeles basin, where clinics such as the John Wayne Cancer Wing at the Cedars Sinai Medical Centre have treated a steady stream of famous — and merely rich — cancer victims, including Larry Hagman, Michael Landon and Gilda Radner.

"It appears that motor vehicles create the largest portion of the toxic risk in terms of their emissions," Barry Wallerstein of the local Air Quality Management District said.

The Clean Air Act set a target of exposing only one American in a million to the risk of cancer through bad air quality. In Los Angeles that index is now at 470 per million, the study found, while in neighbouring Burbank, where much of the film industry is based, 483 per million are at risk.

Smoking is still more dangerous than breathing the air in Los Angeles — 250 times more dangerous for an adult with a one-pack-per-day habit, according to the report.

Nonetheless, American environmentalists hope that it may not be long before, in a hitherto unthinkable development, petrol-burning cars are required to carry public health warnings.

Britain has standards for two of the chemicals identified in the California study — benzene and butadiene (Nigel Hawkes writes). Both are exceeded in urban streets, but improvements now being made should mean that the standards are met by 2005.

But Roger Hignman, of Friends of the Earth, said that there may even then be hot-spots in the centres of cities, and around petrol stations, where levels continued to exceed the limits. Both of these chemicals are present in fuel and reach the air as it is pumped into cars.

Last year the European Commission proposed a tougher limit on benzene. To meet it, emissions will have to fall by 70 per cent more than already planned. Similar limits on other carcinogens, including butadiene, are expected to follow.

The Californian figures sound alarming, and at face value they represent an extra 470 cases of cancer per million people. But as 250,000 people in every million can be expected to contract cancer, this represents about 2 per cent.

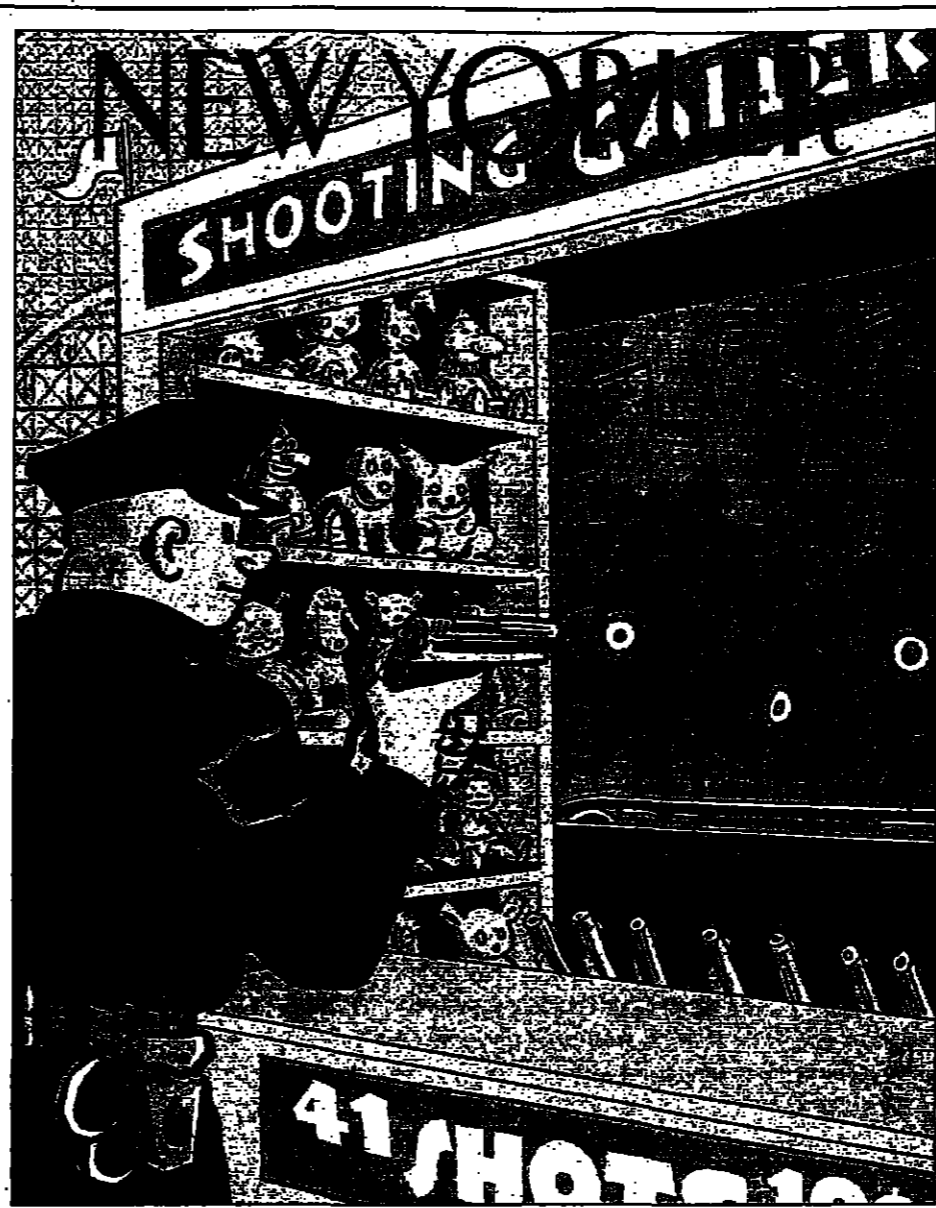


Ford's outsize four-wheel-drive vehicle, the Excursion

King of the road is here

IT IS the size and weight of a respectable log cabin, but so much more versatile (Giles Whittill writes). With room for the entire extended family and three average cars' worth of luggage, the Ford Excursion will be the largest mass-produced four-wheel-drive when launched later this year. Welcome to the age of the behemoth, when the oil crisis of 1973 is but a hazy memory.

Unveiled last week at Ford's Michigan headquarters, the Excursion is expected to prove once and for all that size does matter in the heartland. Longer and wider than its biggest rival, the Chevrolet Suburban, the \$30,000 (£35,000) Excursion is nearly 19 feet long and weighs 3.5 tonnes when empty. The sporty version will offer a stately ten miles per gallon on city streets.



The latest New Yorker showing a policeman shooting civilian silhouettes at a fair

New Jersey police chief is sacked for racial 'slur'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ONE of America's top policemen has been fired for suggesting that drugs crimes are associated with particular ethnic groups, and accusing Jamaicans of running his state's heroin trade.

Colonel Carl Williams, the superintendent of New Jersey's state police, had been at the centre of a controversy over allegations of "racial profiling" in apprehending drivers since white officers fired 11 times at four unarmed non-white youths whose car was pulled over on the way to a basketball game in April.

In an interview with a local newspaper, Colonel Williams condemned "racial profiling"

and denied it was practised by his force. But he insisted it was naïve to believe that race was not an issue in drug trafficking and other crimes.

Two weeks ago the President of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the President of Mexico about drugs," he said. "He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England."

"If you are looking at the methamphetamine market, that seems to be controlled by the motorcycle gangs, which are basically white," he added. "If you are looking at heroin and stuff like that, your involvement there is more or less Jamaican."

Black politicians, churchmen and civil rights activists expressed outrage, and Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor, dismissed Colonel Williams.

Controversy over police racism is also raging in New York, where four white members of a "street crime" unit shot dead a Guinean immigrant armed only with a beeper, firing a total of 41 times.

The police union protested yesterday against a "grossly offensive" cartoon on the cover of the latest New Yorker, showing police at a fair-ground shooting gallery with a sign reading: "41 shots, 10 cents."

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

Senators seek to avert risk of Armageddon

Ian Brodie in

Washington

reports on a

plan to beat the

millennium bug

TWO American senators want experts from the nuclear powers to get together next New Year's Eve to eliminate any chance of a year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem triggering a false missile alert.

The experts would assemble at a temporary centre in Colorado Springs, where America's missile-tracking headquarters — the North American Aerospace Defence Command — is buried deep inside Cheyenne Mountain.

Russia has already agreed to a proposal by Washington to set up a temporary joint early warning system to avoid any risk of the Y2K millennium bug causing a nuclear Armageddon. But the senators are recommending that America should try to bring the other nuclear powers, including China, India and Pakistan, to Colorado Springs.

The pair, Robert Bennett, a Republican, and Christopher Dodd, a Democrat, are leading a Senate committee on the Y2K problem.

Mr Dodd said the experts should be in the same room for the critical period when older computer systems — using only the last two digits of a year — could malfunction by misreading the year 2000 as 1900. "If something does break down, we've got people there who can monitor it and make quick decisions," he said.

The missile watchers at Cheyenne Mountain do not believe in principle that there is any danger of an inadvertent nuclear launch caused by the Y2K bug. Missiles are not, after all, fired by computers, but by human commands. They do see a risk, however, of confusion in the event of one country suffering a blackout or breakdown in the power supply to its nuclear systems that could leave other countries "blind" to its intentions.

The experts would sit at a round table and be in touch with their head offices by telephone. They would be able to give reassurances if any of them showed signs of having a problem.

The proposed name for the Armageddon watch room is the Centre for the Year 2000 Strategic Stability. Edward Warner, the Under-Secretary of Defence, will go to Moscow with a Pentagon working

group this month to meet their Russian counterparts and make plans for the centre. It will be operational from the beginning of December this year until the middle of January 2000.

A continuous stream of information will be made available to the Russians via American satellites and ground sensors.

Last year, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreed to pursue development of a permanent joint early warning centre in Russia to continuously share data on missile launches. But it will not be ready by the end of the year.

Pentagon officials said the Russians knew about the bug and its potential for disruption, but had not yet dedicated enough money or people to fight it.

A report from the two senators says an accidental nuclear launch is unlikely. But Mr Bennett said: "When we get to New Year's Eve, everybody, no matter how informed we think we are, is going to be holding his breath."

The senators also gave a warning of non-nuclear millennium problems in America, including potential power cuts and problems in doctors' surgeries and hospitals, where Y2K preparations are lagging badly.

They stopped short of issuing a Doomsday warning, but said Americans would be well advised to stock up on two or three days' supplies of food, much as they would for a blizzard.

LINKS

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/y2000/index.htm> — Home Office site with information about the response of public sector bodies to the bug.
<http://www.bug2000.co.uk/> — Website of the Action 2000 Agency.
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2000/> — The Microsoft Year 2000 centre, with information about how Microsoft products are affected by the bug.

'Female Viagra' revellers suffer seizures

New York: Revellers at a wild birthday party on Manhattan's Upper West Side started dropping to the floor and two women were rushed to hospital with breathing difficulties after guests took a herbal remedy dubbed the "female Viagra" (James Bone writes).

Partygoers were drinking beer with chasers of "Invigorator" — touted as a miracle drug that can put users in a good

mood, help them to lose weight, build muscle and improve their sex lives. The lemon-flavoured drug contains a compound known as gamma-butyro-lactone, or GBL — also used in "date-rape" by men who slip it into women's drinks.

The dietary supplement was pulled from chemists' shelves in January when the US Food and Drug Administration reported that 55 people had suffered adverse

reactions to substances containing GBL, including one woman who died. It can still be purchased on the Internet, where it is described as the "Fountain of Youth".

As many as a dozen people at Saturday's party fell ill, having downed shots of the potion, which is meant to be taken by the teaspoonful. "The party was out of control," said one host. "People were dropping to the floor and having seizures."

Find your ideal partner on the Internet.

www.business.barclays.co.uk

Start up a new business with Barclays and you'll get free internet banking for one year. It's just one part of a tailor-made package designed to make business banking as convenient as possible. So visit our web site, call 0800 400 170 for a free information pack, or ask at your local branch.

Some telephone conversations may be recorded for training purposes.

BARCLAYS

YOUR IDEAL BUSINESS PARTNER

TMB

You don't have to be French to shop in Calais.

The shopping forecast.



Attention all shoppers, especially in areas a short hop from Dover.

Here is the shopping forecast from the English Channel.

Dover to Calais - crossings, frequent.

Shopping prices falling steadily.

Wines plentiful from all regions with bargains, imminent.

Bries moderate. Other cheeses also excellent.

Hotel accommodation - good.

Restaurants - fine.

There'll be a few passengers unwinding as the day goes on and we'll see more ferries along shortly.

What are you waiting for? With around 140 crossings a day.

Calais begins with sea

DOVER/CALAIS. OVER 100 CROSSINGS EVERYDAY. P&O STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERFERRY.

The idle vow that cost £1m, payable in sweat

John Spurling is running the London Marathon against all advice, says Jon Ashworth

Many people say things they regret after a drink or two, but few on the scale of John Spurling, a semi-retired businessman. Last year, over drinks in Langman's Brasserie, he agreed to compete in this year's Flora London Marathon despite never having run anywhere in his life. Worse, he pledged to raise £1 million for charity.

Overweight and out of condition, Spurling, 59, embarked on a training programme under which he will have run 1,500 miles by the time his ordeal is over. Even his trainer tried to talk him out of it. But Spurling is a man obsessed, and on marathon day, April 18, he intends to complete the 26 miles even if it takes all day.

Spurling has spent much of his life in Kenya, which is known for its long-distance runners. He has attracted pledges of £850,000 so far, which, if he finishes the marathon, will easily outstrip the previous individual best of £444,000, raised in 1982 by Sir Roger Gibbs to fund a new body scanner at Guy's Hospital. His endeavours will benefit animals and children, through the Animal Health Trust and the Lord's Taverners, whose chairman is a close friend.

Preparing an out-of-shape man for such a punishing ordeal is no small challenge. Spurling runs at least ten miles a day, six days a week, using a treadmill in his Central London flat, and admits that it has been tough. "The first time I tried to touch my toes, I could only get to my knees," he says. "I'd never done any exercise except golf." Five months into his training, he has run 800 miles, his blood pressure is down and he has lost weight. "I cut out all carbohydrates except for a bowl of cereal in the morning — no bread, no rice, no pasta — and I started losing weight fast. The body's fat turns into carbohydrates, so it starts to eat the fat away."

Weight loss or not, people think he is crazy. John Major, who has pledged money, told Spurling he had "lost his marbles". Sir Denis Thatcher, on hearing of his quest at a Lord's Taverners event, shouted:

"When's the memorial service?" His trainer, Lee Saxby, a former RAF engineer, is almost as unforgiving. "A marathon is an unnatural event," he says. "The first guy who did it in Ancient Greece got to the end and died. It ages you and it's hell for your joints."

Spurling received a letter from an orthopaedic surgeon pleading to pay him £1,000 not to run. He told Spurling: "I've had enough of silly old sods doing exercise they shouldn't be doing." More than 40,000 runners sign up for the London Marathon but only 30,000 run on the day. Injuries claim the rest.

Saxby says: "Compared with sprinters, marathon runners look terrible. They lose all their muscle and age very quickly. All that mileage and the oxygen going out of their bodies damages the cells and speeds up the ageing process."

He admits to thinking twice before taking Spurling on. "John had every risk factor in the book. He's male, and guys tend to drop dead of cardiovascular disease more than females. He was overweight, had high blood pressure and had been inactive for most of his life. In theory, no, he shouldn't be doing it."

Marathon runners talk about "hitting the wall" at a certain point in a race — usually around 20 miles, when the body's store of carbohydrates runs out and it starts to burn fat. Spurling jokes that he hits the wall after 300 yards. "Every day I ask myself, why I am doing this? They say your body releases a chemical that makes you look forward to training. That hasn't happened to me yet."

Spurling has a host of celebrities egging him on, from Jeffrey Archer to Bobby Charlton. Michael Aspel and Geoff Hurst. Sebastian Coe is providing encouragement. Spurling's aim is to work up to 20 miles on his treadmill, then tackle the 26 miles for the first time on the day. "I run a mile, then walk for a minute. That seems to be what my body is accepting," he says. "I'd be thrilled to do it in five hours." Although he makes light of it, people do drop dead in mar-



John Spurling (left) limbers up in Hyde Park with his personal trainer, Lee Saxby. He trains on a treadmill at home

athons and there must be a risk in punishing your body in this way. His wife, Gwyneth, says she panicked initially, but takes comfort from the fact that there have been only five marathon deaths in 18 years. Whatever happens, the charities will get their money. Spurling has insured his life for £1 million — just in case.

Anyone who wishes to support John Spurling can send donations to The Animal Health Trust/Lord's Taverners Marathon Challenge, 22 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. Everyone who makes a pledge will receive a thank-you certificate signed by more than 40 celebrities. Cheques should be made payable to AHIT/LTaverners Marathon Run.

Harder they run, higher they fly

Addictive side-effects and a sense of achievement motivate the contestants, as Victoria Fletcher discovers

Addictive side-effects and a sense of achievement motivate the contestants, as Victoria Fletcher discovers

For most of the British public, the Flora London Marathon is an almost alien event. Sitting in living rooms, they watch with

perverted fascination as the breed of forlorn creatures puffs past. After six hours, a

unanimous conclusion is voiced: runners are nutters.

Although it is true that to run 26.2 miles requires determination, psychologists suggest that it is not such an

impossible feat as most of the voyeurs might think. In fact, thanks to chemicals released

by the brain when exercise is taken, running becomes an addiction.

Alma Thomas, a sports psychologist and co-ordinator for UK Athletics, argues that almost anybody could run a marathon, whatever their sporting history.

"There is nothing to say that you need to be a certain type of person to run, have a

certain physique or have a tough mental state. Many people are dragged into it and

may not be enthusiastic when they start training, but most find that they become addict-

ed to the physiological side-effects of exercise," she says.

These side-effects are crucial in motivating many of the less likely marathon runners to continue their gruelling training regimes. When intense exercise is undertaken, a

reaction occurs in the brain to quell the physical pain and mental torture. Research has

shown that these natural endorphins have the same effect as drugs such as heroin. The athlete feels elated and his or

her sense of pain is suppressed.

"The endorphins make runners feel 'high'," Thomas says. "Combine this with the

fact that being fit makes people feel good about themselves and their bodies, and

even the most lethargic manage to keep on training."

Control is also important for runners. Thomas believes that many people who feel

they are not achieving in other areas of their lives get a

sense of reward from completing their training and improving their times.

"Many people never feel that they can do it. Then they

train and realise that they can reach little targets. They are

in control and build confidence until they begin to run

greater distances," she says.

"However, when they stop, they often get a sense of depression because both the psychological and physiological

rewards stop."

Keeping the mind occupied and determined is one of the hardest

battles for the marathon runner. Dr Sarah Rowell is a

sports science consultant and former British women's marathon record holder. Despite

her talent and fitness, she admits that there was not a single

race where she did not consider dropping out.

"The mental challenge is almost greater than the phys-

ical challenge. You can train and be fit for the race, but

how you mind works is what will make the difference. I

would always want to stop and give up at the halfway

mark, but then I would pull through that awful period and

go on to break records."

Rowell's research with some of the country's top

athletes has led her to believe that there are two types of

marathon runner. Most amateurs cope with the pain and

boredom by thinking of unrelated subjects, from their jobs

to what they will eat for supper. Her research suggests that

although this is more enjoyable, it can depress performance. Runners who become

obsessive over heart rate and physical composure

run faster.

"We have found that the people who think about the

race, concentrate on their pace, their breathing, the next

water-stop and their aches

Pushing the body beyond normal limits

AVID runners need have no worries about their cardiovascular system. Provided it was normal when they start the London Marathon, the heart will still be beating bravely at the finishing line.

There is no evidence that strenuous physical exercise in temperate climatic conditions does any long-term damage to the heart, and runners are therefore unlikely to expire en route. There are occasional deaths among athletes, but this is usually the result of a dangerous arrhythmia; the result of undetected disease.

Although minor arrhythmias are common during heavy exercise, they don't usually cause disasters and when they do, it is usually because the runners were unaware that their coronary arteries were in poor fettle, either because they had some congenital disease of the arteries or the aortic valve, or more frequently that their coronary arteries were already plagued with atheroma. This is the fatty material that furs up arteries — sudden exercise sometimes causes one of the plaques adherent to the artery wall to rupture, with the result that debris may block a vital artery. Occasionally, calamity follows an undetected cardiomyopathy, an overgrowth of heart muscle and enlargement of the heart to the point where it no longer functions efficiently.

None of the marathon runners should be taking part if they have a temperature, or even if they think they are sickening for a dose of flu or other infection. The heart is much more vulnerable to transitory infection than is sometimes realised, and it is thought that some of the unexpected sudden deaths in young athletes each year are because, despite having a temperature, they have ventured out on to the pitch rather than sitting by a warm fire.

Detecting heart disease in an athlete isn't always easy. Some endurance athletes who, day by day build up their physical prowess, develop the athletic heart syndrome. The heart becomes enlarged, the heart rate becomes very slow, and they develop various changes in their ECG pattern that strike terror into the non-specialist doctor, particularly as the patient may also have acquired a multiplicity of murmurs. Although a harmless syndrome, it is not a diagnosis that can be made in five minutes at the end of a busy surgery and its true nature should be confirmed by an expert.

If athletes were chased by a

pack of hounds down the Embankment and were then bundled away by human rights protesters, their blood serum analysed and their urine examined for traces of haemolysed blood, the results would be alarming. Every headline next day would be crying out for such a cruel sport to be abandoned, and earnest doctors would discuss whether, if it hadn't been for their skilful attention, the runner would have died. Marathon running certainly pushes the body beyond the limits that it would normally have to endure, and there is transitory damage to the muscles and joints.

Although marathon runners are at risk of exposing hitherto unsuspected heart disease, they are more likely to suffer from other problems over the years. The runner should remember that he hasn't the hounds of hell chasing him, and that even if television cameras are present, and everybody from the office is cheering him on, it is essential

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD

to stop if the pain is intolerable. Likewise, stop if chest pain or a very severe headache is noticed. Feeling dizzy, loss of concentration and orientation so that everything becomes a blur is an indication that it is time to melt into the crowds after visiting the first-aid tent.

In the unlikely event of a very hot day, heatstroke and heat exhaustion are risks for the unfit. Pounding the pavements results in excessive wear and tear of the spine and arthritis of the intervertebral joints — this is only partially prevented by having shock-absorbent soles on roomy trainers and doing as much running as possible on grass. Knees and feet are also affected and the arches of the athlete's feet are likely to be as painful and flat as those of the proverbial policeman. Toes are hammered against the end of the shoes when running; the nails when raised from their bed make an ideal cranny for fungi and athlete's foot.

The overenthusiastic athlete may also pay an emotional price. Research a few years ago showed that marathon runners are more likely to divorce — psychiatrists regard excessive exercise as an interesting symptom.

and pains will achieve better times than those who switch off," she says.

For the runners who do manage to finish the 26-mile slog, an even more interesting psychological conundrum awaits. Instead of relaxing, the obsessive interest in exercise can move to new extremes. "After one race, people often find that they are addicted physically and mentally," Rowell says. "They need a tougher challenge. That is when most decide to run in fancy-dress."

WE'RE ANALYSING 50,000 CASES FOR CAUSES OF LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA

Is help or need a donation contact 43 GREAT ORMOND STREET LONDON WC1N 3JG 0171 405 0101

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

In the year 2000

all the lights

go on

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT

DANGER SYSTEM FAILURE

Millennium Bug problems are not confined to computers.

Anything with an embedded chip could fail resulting in injury or death.

Time is running out fast.

Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive

can help shed light on the solutions you need.

Call freephone 08007 31 12 99

and quote T72/3 for your FREE

Y2K Risk Assessment Guide today.

HSE Home Page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.open.gov.uk/hse/hsehome.htm>

HSE Health & Safety Executive

هكذا من الأهل

Sceptic seeks New Age therapy



Jane Shilling had never had so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence when a disastrous year finally made her cast aside her natural scepticism and go in search of natural remedies

If I am the low point of the day, when the living lie awake and anxious, and the dying relinquish their hold on life, then late winter is the time of the year, when one's complexion goes as grey as the sky and one's immune system sags like boiled knicker elastic.

The resolutions with which one began January in such confidence (gym three times a week; think serene thoughts instead of shouting at children; only one glass of wine with dinner) have faded, adding a sense of failure to add to one's list of self-reproach about being an evil-tempered Slack Alice with a big bum. There are many short-term strategies for weathering this unlovely season: a week's skiing, a facial, a trip to the sales in search of cashmere comfort clothing. But every so often one reaches a point where such palliatives don't work any more.

This was my state early this year; frustration had been heaped upon disappointment in 1998. Things reached a climax just before Christmas in the form of a frightening health scare. I have devised ways of blunting the sharp tooth of adversity: a moan to a patient friend, a glass of red wine, a fat 19th-century novel or an hour's energetic bouncing on the back of a horse. But by New Year's Eve I felt that what was happening to me was well beyond the power of Château Tassin to alleviate. So after a lifetime's scepticism, with never so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence, I found myself setting off on a journey into the unknown realm of complementary therapy.

I began at Lifestyle Management, in Wimpole Street, Central London. In its press release the consultancy, run by Jane Townsend and Alix Needham,

urges: "Take stock, throw off old baggage, revitalise your life. Geri did it. Cher did it. Madonna did it. Now you can do it."

Needham was reassuringly matter-of-fact about how she might help to improve my life. She spent a year studying in India after leaving teaching, before returning to London in the 1980s, designer boom and thinking that since people were so keen to have designer everything — cars, kitchens, clothes, babies — why not a designer lifestyle?

Lifestyle Management offers ways of identifying and achieving goals, junking baggage and habits. Clients might include a successful thirty-something woman whose career had flourished at the expense of her emotional life, or a middle-aged man who could not decide whether to leave his wife and begin afresh with his mistress.

Needham's role is to encourage people to break free of their "comfort zones" of habit, envisage what their life might be and then devise the means by which they might arrive at the desired state. The process generally takes five to ten sessions, at about £80 a visit.

So, asked Needham, what was my problem? Oh, usual working mother's stuff, said I. Too much to do, no time to do it all, resulting in exhaustion, bad temper and the looks and manner of a flesh-eating zombie. Ten minutes' deft questioning broke the problem down

into three parts: better organisation of my work, providing time for myself, and work on understanding why I find it so hard to stop doing chores (not for nothing is the Shilling family motto "You're Not Here to Enjoy Yourself").

"Now you're going to go into a relaxed state," said Needham. I was to shut my eyes while she counted to ten. I was to imagine that in my right hand I held my professional self, in my left, myself as a child. What would the child say to her parents about how she had grown up? Oh dear. The prospect of saying anything at all on that subject was too awful to contemplate, even in a state of alleged relaxation. No, really, I couldn't. Perhaps, said I, squirming, but trying not to be unhelpful, I could tell my child self that I was a grown-up now, so it didn't much matter how I'd been brought up. Fine, said Needham. Now I was to join my hands symbolically together, she would count to ten again, and I could open my eyes. She then set me some "tasks": for example, I was to ask my nanny for an evening's babysitting a week, then reorganise my work schedule to accommodate a night off.

I ask my nanny to babysit once a year, but emboldened by Alix's can-do approach, I mumbled something like,

if it wasn't too much trouble, might she consider it? Delighted, she replied.

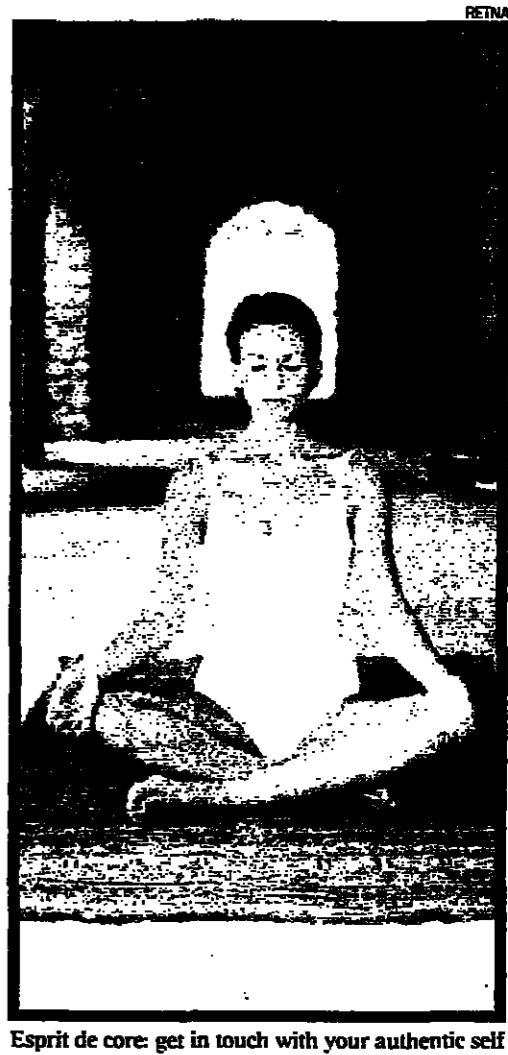
Dazzled by my new, pleasure-filled lifestyle, I set off in good humour for my session of Rosen bodywork with Ulrike Tham. Tham trained as a nurse in Sweden, where her interest in complementary medicine grew from a sense that her patients were overmedicated. She then encountered Marion Rosen, a German Jewish refugee whose work with a former student of Jung convinced her of the link between mind and body, and led her to devise a system of gentle massage intended to put clients in touch, emotionally and physically, with their "core selves" — it is based on the premise that each of us has an "authentic" self with which we gradually lose touch through the adoption of the masks and stratagems imposed by social conditioning.

then proceeded to identify the spinal curvature that my doctor had assured me was imperceptible, the paralysing shyness from which I had thought ten years might have cured, and another, even less creditable quality.

"You're a little fighter, aren't you?" she said kindly. Oh dear. Old cross-patch, my son would say. Well, yes. I do feel the need to fight for every inch of ground, I admitted, as briskly as one can while lying semi-naked on a table. I was determined not to succumb to a weepy recital of my little joys and sorrows. "Reaction during treatment varies widely," Tham's leaflet had warned. "Some want to talk, laugh or cry." Not me. Perhaps, said Tham as I dressed and prepared to leave, something will come out in your dreams. "Never have a dream I can remember," I said.

I went home, feeling relaxed and interested in what Tham had said, but no different. That night I had a vivid, disagreeable dream about making an exhausting journey, with lots of difficult connections. You didn't have to be Jung to work it out. The next night I had an even nastier dream, so awful that I never allow my conscious mind near it. And the next morning, in unexpected and terminal fashion, that source of anguish put an end to itself.

Spooky or what? said I to a friend, a scientific rationalist. "Pooh!" she cried, explaining it away in terms of manipulation of the parasympathetic nervous system. Parasympathetic nervous system or what, if I were Tham, I'd be glad they don't burn witches any more.



Esprit de core: get in touch with your authentic self

'Spin your throat chakra in a clockwise direction.' Eh?

BODY

In my exploration of complementary therapies, I had begun to address the sensations of panic and discontent that hover over the lives of many women. Emotionally there seemed a possibility of improvement, but physically? To work full-time, run a house and raise a child — single-handed, even with the help of an excellent nanny and loyal, patient friends, is a strain that the human frame was not meant to bear for long. Modern mothers, it has been pointed out, lead the lives of Victorian skivvies, and it shows. However firmly one tells oneself to buck up, the mirror tells its own story.

In my case, the grey complexion and purple rings under the eyes had become so alarming that I was putting in half an hour's work with lipstick and concealer before the school run for fear the other mummies might notice that Alexander was being delivered by Morticia Addams. Moreover, I am permanently exhausted and have the evil temper of the nasty old woman I shall become if I don't watch out. None of this adds up to an illness; certainly nothing I'd bother the GP with. But I have an overpowering sense that I am running on empty and that it can't go on for much longer.

The Balance Clinic on the Kings Road, Chelsea, is the place to go if one feels end-of-tetherish. The detailing is a mixture of the smarmy vernacular and the quasi-religious. A young woman in white linen pyjamas presides over an altar-like reception desk on which burns a scented candle. Angelic music floats, barely audible, on the air, and on a low table scattered with magazines sits a bowl filled with little slips of card, printed with Beautiful Thoughts: "Be like the angels: share on Earth and live in God," read mine. Perched on Zest magazine was a book, *The Voice of the Silence*, by Madame Blavatsky. Wondering what that preposterous figure was doing in this madish galère, I opened



Reiki healing may be accompanied by intense visions or sensations of colours. Sometimes a person's aura is perceived

it at random. "The mind is the great slayer of the real," it observed, sternly.

I had come to the clinic to see Ba Harvey, who, with a combination of kinesiology and reiki, might sort out what ailed me, and do something about it. Harvey, a hygienic figure with blonde hair and a tight white trouser suit, took me into a consulting room with a huge table and a shelf full of lotions. There was a detailed medical questionnaire (the broken collarbone I sustained after being knocked down by a cycle decades ago might be "linked to depression") and then I clambered, clothed but for my shoes, on to the massage table.

Kinesiology is a technique of testing muscle resistance, from which certain "deductions" (complementary therapists recoil from the word "diagnosis" like vampires from garlic) may be made about "imbalances" in the system, and means — massage, nutritional supplements, acupuncture etc. — of rectifying them.

Harvey tested the resistance of my main joints, and revealed a liver imbalance. Then she put wheat grains at the base of my throat. More tests showed a wheat allergy, of which I had been unaware. Then large tones were laid on my navel, and a gentle grip of my wrist signalled which page to consult about a problem or its solution. Part of me was awed by the murmuring intensity of it all; another — imagining what I looked like with my feet and head sticking out at either end and the rest covered in books — was fighting a fit of giggles.

We moved on to reiki healing, which is sometimes accompanied by intense visions or colours. (Mine were those of a comfortable doze.) Harvey perceived an aura, which I was put out to have missed, though consoled by the luxury of having spent a weekday afternoon flat on my back doing absolutely nothing.

The next appointment was with Serena Smith, a hypnotherapist specialising in flower essences, who works from her flat in North London. The atmosphere combines the spiritual with the domestic: family photographs, crystal eggs and miniature Mars bars, a powerful scent of incense and a horatory Post-it — "I am successful and creative..." — on the word-processor screen. Smith is 60 and an advert for her own programme: she

has clear, firm skin and bright, brown eyes. Her manner is warm and sensible and I found myself nodding sagely as she explained how, over six sessions, the "unconscious mind is accessed and given instructions to heal at a cellular level". The process is underpinned with flower essences and a cassette of "positive affirmations". The actual process was prosaic enough: sitting on Smith's cream leather sofa, I shut my eyes and, to the accompaniment of ephemeral music, I listened as she told me that I was becoming ever more relaxed. Then, reading from a script (whose pages crackled as they were turned), she issued an elaborate set of instructions, some of which were a bit advanced. ("Spin your throat chakra in a clockwise direction." Eh?)

Later I had to apostrophise various bits of me in encouraging terms: "Say after me," said Smith, "my beloved pineal gland..." Oh dear. Oh, all right. The result, Smith said, would be that "the helixes in your cells are increasing". Then the tape stopped. I opened my eyes and was given a cassette of affirmation ("I like myself. I approve of myself") and a bottle of Eternal Youth flower essence.

I listened to my tape, and dosed myself with Eternal Youth. For all I know my helixes were multiplying nicely, but I still felt cross and tired when I went to see Elizabeth Gibaud at the Hale Clinic. The Hale was opened in 1988 by the Prince of Wales at 7 Park Crescent, a cream-stuccoed building in a grand Nash terrace. Inside, the atmosphere is hospital-like, with leaflets on every complementary therapy imaginable. I was to have a facial analysis with Gibaud, whose specialities include weight loss and gain, eating disorders, mood swings, premature ageing, alcohol addiction and cystitis. When young, she had suffered from respiratory and back problems, which she overcame by change of diet and lifestyle, going on to work as an actress in, among other things, the *Carry On* films, before becoming a full-time therapist.

This slight, middle-aged woman with a power bob fixed me with a piercing stare and reeled off defects: sinus problems (true), premature ageing (undeniable), a candida infection (not that I know of). I began to think it a miracle I could stagger about at all. She began on my diet, about which I tend to be smug: no processed food, lots of vegetables, olive oil. She was appalled: "You eat two full meals a day and do nothing to justify such consumption."

What about the daily two-mile trek to school, the twice-weekly ride, the darting about that mothers do? She was unimpressed. A thorough medical inquest followed, which revealed the fact that I am soon to have an operation (for something not very serious).

Then the verdict: two weeks on a strict detox diet and I would be bouncing with health. But I must stick to the diet (breakfast: porridge made with water, and as much cucumber as I fancied; lunch: green leaves, no oil; dinner: baked potato, lean grilled meat or non-oily fish; water). I was to take a detoxifying supplement, calcium, vitamin B, evening primrose oil and two homeopathic remedies.

I had hardly opened the front door before the telephone rang. It was Gibaud, offering support. Her faith in

her regimen is messianic, her follow-up assiduous. Over the next two weeks I was monitored and encouraged.

She has had encouraging results with serious disorders, including cancer. She believed my medical problem could be solved without recourse to surgery. Would I consider postponing the operation? I declined, wondering if it was safe to put myself under the knife after two or three weeks on such a low diet. Absolutely, said Gibaud. In a couple of weeks my immune system would be on top form.

She fixed me testimonials from clients who had benefited from her care, and rang me with news of a young woman who had had cancer since 1988 and had shown, in nine weeks in her care, a real improvement. After two days on the diet my weight dropped to below 8st. I pressed on with the oatmeal and cucumber, but the walk to school had become an ordeal. And I didn't know what to do with my evenings now that I wasn't preparing and consuming dinner.

After a week I had a persistent headache. I had arranged to go riding but felt too limp to control a horse. This is absurd, said an internal voice. Gibaud had warned me about this and I knew what I should do: ring and let her deal with the voice. Instead I made a mug of sergeant-major's tea, stiff with sugar, and swallowed it with slices of toast and Marmite. Ten minutes later I pulled on my riding boots, with a confused sense of having let Gibaud down and a stronger pang of regret: I'll never know what might have happened had my will been stronger, and my tolerance for oatmeal and greenery just a bit higher.

● The Balance Clinic: kinesiology from £65 per session, reiki from £55 (no charge for a half-hour preliminary consultation). 0171-565 0333; Serena Smith: Rejuvenation programme (six sessions over three months) £270. 0171-431 6153; Elizabeth Gibaud, The Hale Clinic, first appointment £70, then £50. 0171-631 0156.

Celebrate Spring with...

2 dine for the price of 1

Welcome drink on arrival

Accommodation with traditional English breakfast

A personal copy of Tatler and House & Garden in your room

Late check-out on Sunday

Let's Celebrate Spring!

Banish those winter blues with a refreshing seasonal break at one of over 45 Heritage Hotels throughout the UK.

With enticing prices and these inviting features you'll find the joys of spring aren't just in the air.

0345 40 40 40

Quoting reference 'Spring 9' www.heritagehotels.com

Bed & Breakfast from only

The New Bath Hotel	£39
Matlock Bath, Derbyshire	
Rusacks Hotel	£50
St. Andrews, Fife	
The Castle Hotel	£55
Windsor, Berkshire	

Choose from over 45 hotels

Heritage HOTELS

Individual hotels for every Individual

Heritage is a division of Forte Hotels

Terms & Conditions: This offer is subject to availability and is open until 19 April 99. Prices are per person sharing a twin or double room for stay Fri-Sun during March. Sole occupancy supplements apply. Prices quoted include VAT at 17.5%. 2 for 1 dining offer applies to food only. The more expensive dinner (1 the two will be charged. Vary to UK residents only.



CLASSICAL CDS
David Mellor
travels for the
best of Mahler
PAGE 39

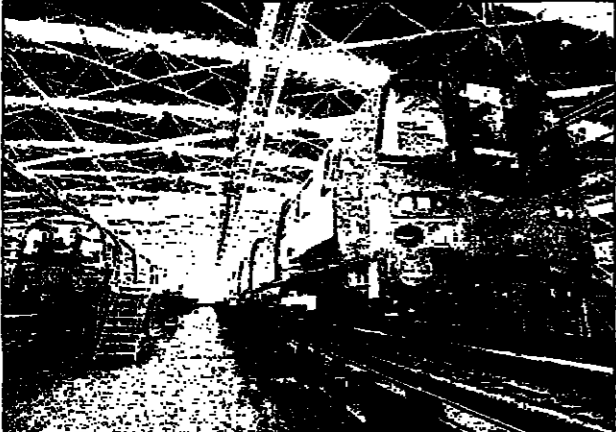
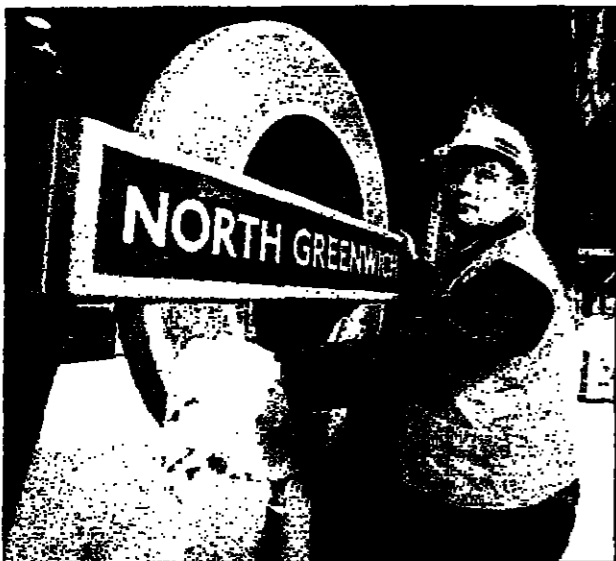
THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE
Man behind
Royal Ballet
new step

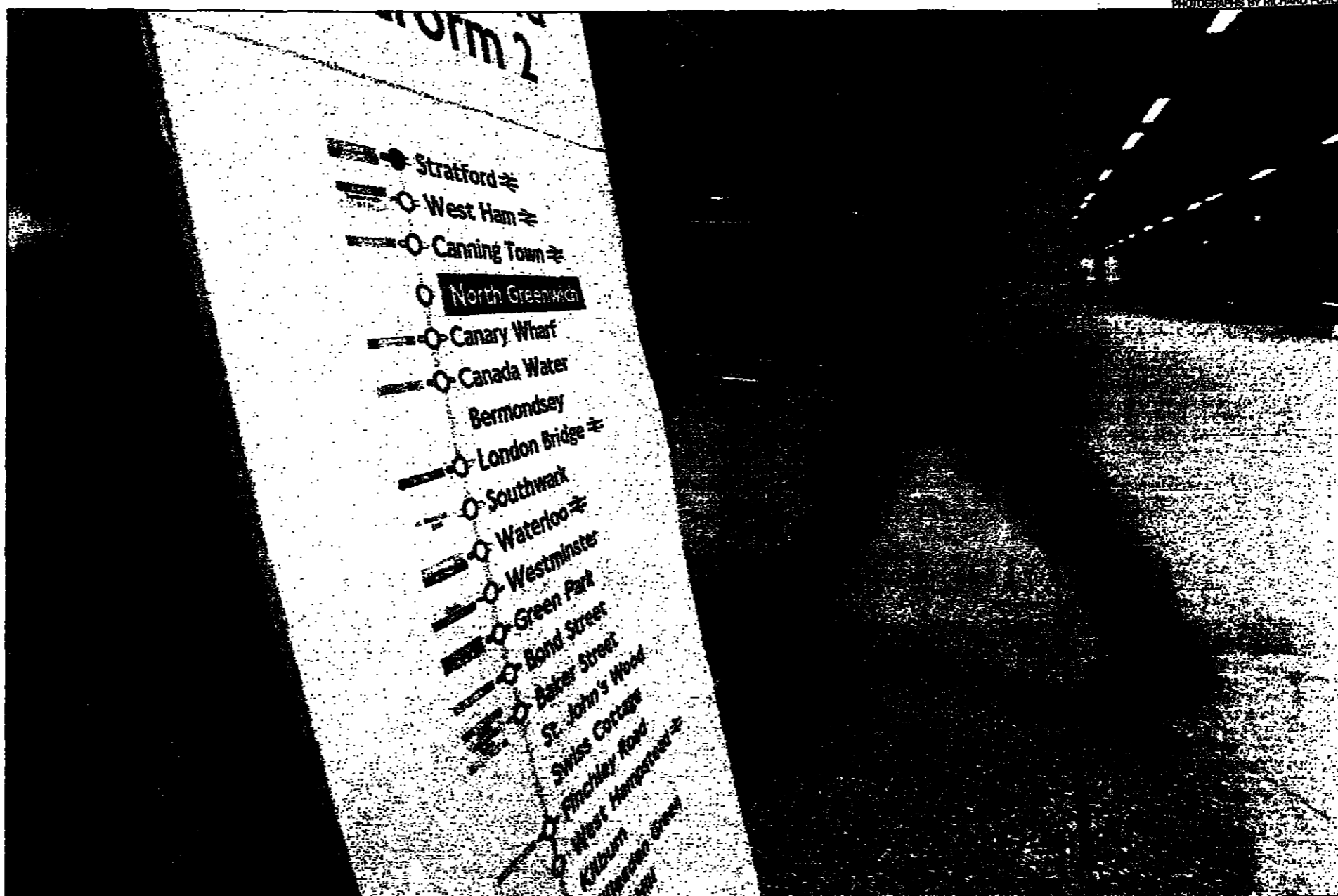


Sights at the end of the tunnel

When it finally opens, the new Jubilee Line extension will be a showcase for Britain's finest architects, says Marcus Binney



Above: Chris Wilkinson's Stratford depot, with new trains



Waiting to be mounted on the wall, a chart at North Greenwich (above) lists the new Jubilee Line stations. Each has been commissioned from a different architect by Roland Paoletti



Lobby of Foster's Canary Wharf station, which will handle 22,000 passengers an hour

The new Jubilee Line stations are likely to be the biggest architectural sensation of their kind since the underground palaces of the Moscow Metro were built to Stalin's lavish specification. But while Moscow is a glittering retro

world of marble and chandeliers, London Underground's 11 new Jubilee stations — leading like a necklace towards the Millennium Dome — are airy and dramatically modern. Credit for this stupendous and imaginative act of patronage goes largely to Roland Paoletti, the architect-in-chief for the Jubilee Line extension, who came to London fresh from building the impressive new Metro in Hong Kong. Paoletti's achievement is to bring architects into an underground world that had hitherto been exclusively the domain of the civil engineer.

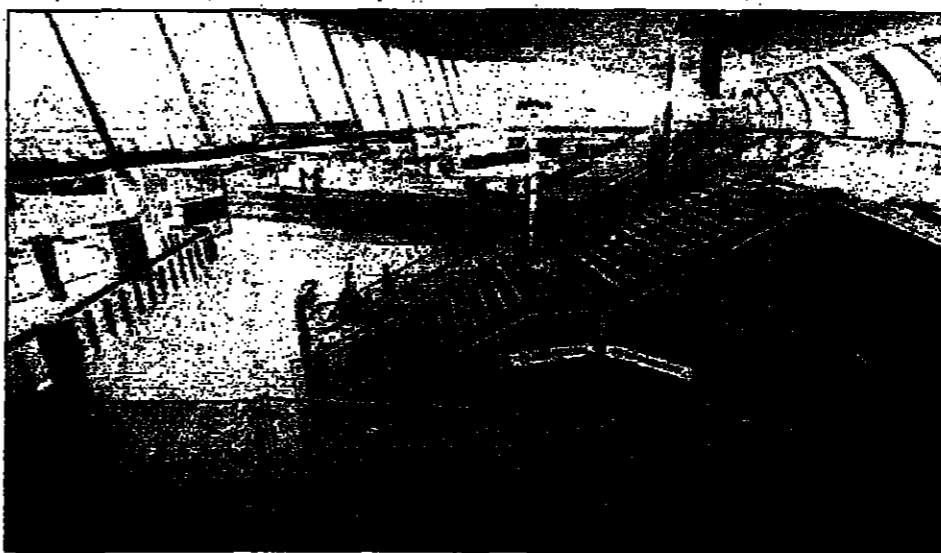
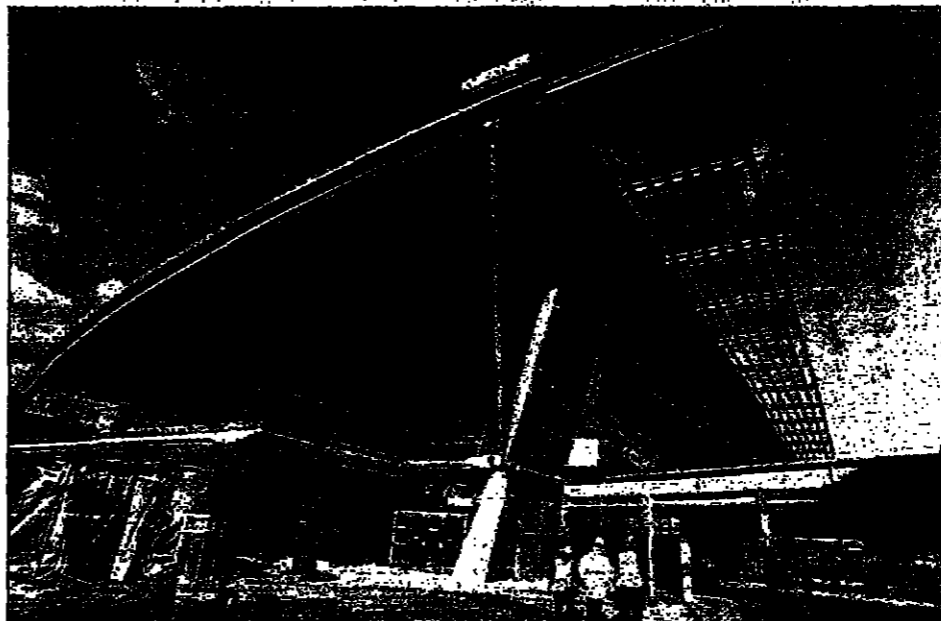
The rumour has gone round that the new Jubilee stations are like cathedrals. Not surprisingly (given the £2.9 billion cost of the extension) Paoletti is defensive here. But he fairly points out that the largest stations are cut-and-cover trenches and that filling in the hole above the platform would have been at least as expensive as leaving it as a void.

Most deep stations on the Tube are a maze of tunnels where you lose all sense of direction. No longer. Paoletti's architects have achieved wonders in contriving generous, logically planned concourses below ground in areas which are usually cramped and confused by the vast quantity of unseen equipment that has to be incorporated. He has sought out architects whose work contains a strong sense of engineering construction. This made Norman Foster an obvious choice, and also Michael Hopkins, who believes intensely that a building's structure should always be on show (and was awarded the prize commission for the new Westminster station).

Paoletti was making these choices in 1990, in the depths of the property recession, when architects were in desperate straits. In these circumstances he considered it morally indefensible to ask one architect to take charge of the project and create a family of stations as Foster did at Bilbao (or Harry Weese in the Washington DC metro). He chose Will Alsop before he got his great commission in Mar-



Will Alsop's North Greenwich station (left); Chris Wilkinson's Stratford station with huge oversailing roof (above, right); and its forecourt (below, right)



EN
The score's almost supernatural purity... is beautifully mirrored in the feel and texture of Martha Clarke's staging.
Independent

March 4 | 12 | 17 | 20 | 25
27 | 29 | 31 at 8.00pm
Sung in English
Tickets from \$5 - \$55
English National Opera
at the London Coliseum
St Martin's Lane WC2
Box Office
0171 632 8300
24 hours



Orpheus
& Eurydice
Gluck

Photo: Bill Haines/Photograph by Bill Haines

'These architects achieve wonders in contriving generous and logically planned concourses'

While Foster's architecture is all simplicity and clarity, Will Alsop, in glorious contrast, makes the design and display of every piece of equipment at North Greenwich into an event, whether they are tractor ducts, canopies or service stairs connecting to machinery rooms suspended in space. "It's an architecture of parts," Alsop says. "I am fascinated with the idea of looking up through space and not knowing quite where it ends."

To achieve the maximum platform area, he places his columns in pairs slanting in opposite directions to carry the roof. Deep blues dominate, blue mosaics on the columns and a wall of back-lit glass that is the exact tint of the traditional blue light outside a police station. Here, as at all the new stations, glass screens along the platform prevent passengers falling on the track, with sliding doors that open in sync with the train's. After the Jubilee Line has crossed beneath the Thames for the fourth time, it emerges at ground level at Stratford, a big interchange with the Central Line, the North London Line and trains to East Anglia. For this, Chris Wilkinson has designed an engineering tour de force using steel as expressively as Gustave Eiffel. The huge oversailing roof is supported on sickle-shaped steel beams that shoot out to form a canopy on the other side.

Wilkinson has made his name with what he calls super-sheds, and appropriately he has designed the vast service depot for Jubilee trains at Stratford. Inside, five elevated lines allow engineers to walk under trains to inspect the undercarriages, while special jacks enable neighbouring trains to be lifted up bodily four carriages at a time, with three further tracks for cleaning rolling stock.

Repeated delays to the Jubilee Line extension have created a climate of cynicism, but smart new trains in red, white and blue are already making practice runs beneath the Dome. The official line now is that trains will start running between Stratford and North Greenwich in the late spring, continuing all the way to Waterloo in the late summer, with the final link to Westminster and Green Park opening in the autumn. When and if that happens, a one-day, fast route across the capital, but a tour of some spectacular new British architecture.

هكذا من الأهل

■ OPERA

Terfel's Aussie triumph

ARTS

■ DANCE

Verdict on Spring Loaded

Set for a royal liaison

DANCE: Royal Ballet choreographer Michael Corder is on a spectacular roll, Allen Robertson reports

He has just plucked the juiciest plum off the tree. The Royal Ballet has invited Michael Corder to choreograph the first new full-length ballet to be danced by the company when it moves back into its renovated home at Covent Garden.

A staging of *Les Liasons Dangereuses*, it will be performed to a commissioned score by Richard Rodney Bennett.

Despite a career that spans 25 years and includes some 40 ballets, this will be the first time that Corder, 43, has worked with a commissioned score.

"My entire inspiration for choreography — emotionally, rhythmically, stylistically, structurally — comes from the music I choose. Music has always been my canvas. I use it to find my colours and my textures."

He has wanted to stage this 18th-century drama for nearly a decade now. "Ever since I first had the idea, I have been trying to find the right composer. I have listened to Russian, American, French, even German music, trying to find the right style. Then I stumbled across a piece by Richard."

"I liked his music immediately. He is wonderfully rhythmic and he is not afraid to use melody. And, even though he is now based in New York, he is English to boot. I had never

even met Richard when I proposed the idea," adds Corder. "But he said yes immediately."

In this case immediately means February 2002. In between there is much to keep Corder busy. His career is on a roll. English National Ballet recently revived his *Cinderella*, which won both the Olivier and Evening Standard awards when it was first staged three years ago.

Romeo and Juliet, his other full-length Prokofiev staging, will arrive in London in November when the Norwegian National Ballet performs at Sadler's Wells. And tonight his latest piece, *Masquerade*, will

be seen as part of the Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* tour in Bath. Choreographed to the orchestral suite from Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, it features costumes by Anthony Ward.

"It is called *Masquerade* because I wanted to make it clear right from the start that this is not *Pulcinella*. There isn't a narrative. I want you to see it as a suite of dances." So Corder has sidetracked Stravinsky's arch commedia dell'arte scenario. "I like the atmosphere and the smell of those commedia stories, but *Masquerade* is a musical piece coming from a musical standpoint."

"For me," Corder insists, "dance is always about dancing. If you can say something

Michael Corder rehearsing his new ballet *Masquerade* with members of the Royal Ballet: "I've got more and more Classical as I've got older"

better by writing an opera or a play or doing a film or a musical, then do that. I am interested in pieces that relate to dancing."

"If it doesn't sound too old-fashioned, I do believe dancing is spiritual. It is the beauty and the generosity of the soul expressed through movement. I try to distil that essence in every ballet I do."

Corder has been a part of the Royal Ballet family ever

since he started ballet classes there as a child. His first choreographic commission for Covent Garden, *L'Invitation au voyage*, was nominated for an Olivier Award and in the mid-1980s he went on to collaborate with the distinguished painters Patrick Caulfield and Helen Frankenthaler.

But, following a run-in with Frankenthaler's lawyers over costume designs that Corder

sional standing collapsed. "The whole thing blew up in all our faces. I was not treated properly, but I survived."

Now he has come full circle and is back with the Royal Ballet for the first time in 14 years. "That whole mess is finished. You don't forget, but it's important to move on."

Corder is impressed by the current atmosphere at the Royal. "It's a hive of activity at the moment. In my own rehearsals, at least, there is a feeling of optimism. It had all been bumping along the bottom but is now on the way up. Returning to Covent Garden is enormously exciting, a catalyst for

a new beginning for the company. Finally, everyone can see that there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Masquerade stars three of the Royal's top ballerinas: Viviana Durante, Miyako Yoshida and Leanne Benjamin. "It has been a joy to work with such fabulous dancers. Their technical expertise, their musicality and their ability to know how to work is wonderful."

"I've got more and more Classical as I've got older," Corder adds, when asked to assess his style. "I hope I am upholding a tradition, that I am part of a lineage. That is what I am aspiring to."

"Yes, the Classical language is always changing, but there is a lineage. You need those

building blocks. I am not interested in being cutting edge because this year's cutting edge is often next year's passé. Of course I understand that Classical ballet is a branch of show-business, but I really think it's important not to dumb down. Any layman can be touched by the power of Classical ballet if the passion, clarity, form and structure are communicated."

"It is not just about me trying to have a terrific career," he adds. "I believe passionately in the uplifting qualities of Classical dance, and in having a good time in the theatre."

● *Dance Bites* is at the Theatre Royal, Bath, tonight; a second *Dance Bites* tour is at the Civic Theatre, Darlington, tonight. Tel: 0171-212 9266 for full tour details

Secrets and sulphur

London's Spring Loaded festival of contemporary dance turned the spotlight on two emerging British choreographers last week. Charles Linehan, who last year won the £17,000 Jerwood Award for Young Choreographers, makes a quiet statement with his gentle and unassuming dances. Wayne McGregor, on the other hand, makes a big noise in his mission to prove that dance and technology are great partners.

Linehan's modest programme (at The Place) was a triple bill of secretive and inward-looking pieces. *Number Stations*, a danced semaphore set to short-wave recordings of various intelligence agencies, is a curiosity — and mildly interesting — while *The Secret*, a quartet set to cheesy Hawaiian melodies, is a demure little number that plays with the audience by constantly diverting attention from itself.

The most ambitious item on the bill was *Prejudices and Fugues*, set to a piano score by Shostakovich (played live by Marko Martin). A dance for three, it amounts to choreo-

LONDON DANCE ROUND UP

graphic small talk, its argument the product of a rather languid intellect.

McGregor's offering, *Sulphur 16*, is a hyperactive 70 minutes of strange and slippery dances for his Random Dance Company (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall) that are as volatile as volcanoes. His 16 daring fragments of dance (each just over four minutes) throw out the oddest shapes and most illogical phrases.

Sulphur 16 is the second (the first was *The Millennium*) in a trilogy devoted to exploring the dance potential of new technologies. McGregor's choreography has been devised with the aid of the computer-animation programme *Pose* and with digital video material which was played in reverse "to give an alternative view of the architecture of the movement". DVD, thermal-imaging cameras and God knows what else went into the soup. Whatever its genesis, the choreography does seem to reach parts of the body other choreographers don't.

McGregor's movement language is restless and unresolved: the dancers give the impression of people tormented by insects. The constant paradoxes in the writing have the effect of disembodiment the dancers and as you watch them jab, stab and annoy the performing space you do wonder at the why of it all.

At 70 minutes, the frenzy of body-shocking currents begins to read like an exercise in choreography. The music (credit: Zoviet France) — a more or less constant drone — is a dead zone which only increases the monotony.

Yet McGregor is amazingly inventive and energetic, and he is clearly on to something with this technology business. All he needs now is to harness his enthusiasm for all things digital to a more cohesive dance statement.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

DEBRA CRAINE

A knight to remember

AT THIS stage of his career Bryn Terfel can apparently do no wrong. Every role he undertakes adds another cubit to his international reputation. Taking on Falstaff for the first time in an unfamiliar house, away from his usual haunts of New York and central Europe, the British baritone was greeted with something close to rapture by a first-night audience that included a sizeable number of well-wishers from his native North Wales.

Although this is his first Falstaff, there was nothing timid or half-hearted about his interpretation of a role he can develop at will. He was not afraid to sing like the young man he is, and his characterisation of the lecherous knight will obviously deepen with the years. But this will do for starters.

British audiences do not have long to wait to judge for themselves. A new production of *Falstaff*, conducted by Bernard Haitink, will reopen the Royal Opera House in December, when Terfel will be again rolled out of the laundry basket into the Thames. And if the production is as handsome and clear-sighted as the one directed by Simon Phillips, which is now in its fourth year, it will be a happy event.

Falstaff is not an opera that lends itself to absurd representation. There are the merry wives, the lovers, Fenton and Nannetta, beneath the stairs, assorted buffoons and the Lord of Misrule himself. All the director has to do is draw the humour that arises naturally, and make sure everybody turns up in Windsor Park on the stroke of midnight. Apart from some coarse acting in the Garter Inn, when the comic exchanges of Bardolph and Pistol, Falstaff's followers, were anything but funny, Phillips kept a tight rein on the action.

Yvonne Kenny made a splendidly manipulative Alice Ford and Irene Vaughn was a winning Mistress Quickly. In the pit, Simone Young conducted this glittering score with both body and weightlessness, ex-

OPERA

celling in a memorable third act of gossamer delights. Phillips found his best touches for the Windsor scenes with a set that could also do service for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. But it was Terfel's night.

Despite his bulk, Terfel's Falstaff has a spring-heeled lightness of touch that suggests the former ducal page-

boy could have had a courtly bearing if he had spent less time on the sauce. The knight "in full summer bloom" appears, in these hands, to be just that in the first three acts, and it is to Terfel's credit that the autumnal tints stop short of November. His voice, rich, deep, and flexible, is a magnificent instrument. As a vocal treat and an exercise in stagecraft, it was a knockout and it is coming to London later this year. Lucky old London.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

DEBRA CRAINE

Goethe turns to lead

In just another six months Goethe will be 250 years old and, if the ensuing celebrations run true to form, we shall be treated to exhibitions of Goethe in His Time, Goethe in Our Time, Goethe for All Time, some of which will be exciting and some not. But already, one thing is certain. No tribute will be as boringly futile as this dire production by Michael Chase's Mask Studio, based upon a fairytale Goethe wrote at a time when alchemy interested him.

My ears wax over when earnest folk seek to interest me in the gobbledygook of *severatio, conjunctio, coaglatio* and the other alchemical processes, climaxing in the "Royal Marriage", when yummy transformations are supposed to occur and love unites all. But disbelief can always be suspended if the theatrical context is right.

The original Goethe I have seen only in a numbing 19th-century translation, but an adaptation could perhaps be made, in Yeatsian Nob-play mode, of the story's mysterious elements: the river crossed by the ferryman who

THEATRE

must be paid, the snake that swallows the gold, the exiled prince, the lily whose touch kills, the temple rising from the waters, the wonderful bridge. Suitably distilled for the stage, we might see all this as an image of personal growth, acceptance of opposites and the like. It might even look pretty.

But what Chase and his writer, Michael Burton, have chosen to do, with fatal consequences, is interlard the Goethe episodes with scenes of their own. The idea is to bring relevance and show that alchemical principles can inspire us in our modern world. Thus we have a group of travellers stranded at a neglected railway station waiting for the delayed midnight train. "The train won't come till you're ready for it," observes the porter, smiling under his woolly cap. And indeed, on

seven occasions their 30-hour wait is interrupted by interruptions of Goethe, where the businessman becomes a moping prince, the prostitute turns into the lily, the lady clinging to her porcelain figures becomes the green snake and so weiter.

The clanking banality of the writing in these modern scenes will be hard to convey. Just one example — the porcelain lady (named Beatrice, oh dear) remarks: "Holes appear in life and I am beckoned by nothingness." There are masks, as you would expect from the company's name, which will not persuade sceptics of the value of this genre. Chase's idea of the importance of movement seems primitive — swaying in unison, that sort of thing.

I liked the Ferryman's rowing, and the names of the lovers, Anna Wynnyczak and Mahatma van der Sloot. I liked the four gongs, although it's ridiculous to have their notes (D, G and so on) pencilled across the front of them. I liked nothing else at all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

WAKING NED EXCLUSIVE PREVIEWS



● Complimentary tickets ● 76 venues

This week *The Times* has teamed up with 20th Century Fox to offer readers the chance to see an exclusive preview screening of *Waking Ned* on Sunday morning, March 14 (exact times will be on the ticket). The film, a raucous modern fairy tale, was a surprise hit at the Cannes Film Festival and won rave reviews when it opened in America at Christmas. Inspired by a true story, *Waking Ned* follows the comic exploits of two friends as they stumble into a lottery scam of hilarious proportions.

For a FREE ticket, which admits two, collect five differently numbered tokens, attach them to the completed voucher right and present them at the cinema box office of your choice, from those listed below. Tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis between March 4 and 13. *Waking Ned* opens nationwide on March 19.

PARTICIPATING CINEMAS

UCI CINEMAS Basildon; Blackpool; Derby; Gateshead; Hatfield; Lee Valley; Milton Keynes; Preston; Sheffield; Solihull; Surrey Quays; London SE1; Sutton; Tamworth; Telford; Warrington; Whiteleys; London W2; Newcastle WALS; Cardiff; Swansea

ODEON CINEMAS Birmingham; Blackpool; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bromborough; Chelmsford; Cheltenham; Colchester; Hemel Hempstead; Holloway; Hull; Kensington; London W8; Kettering; Leeds; Leicester; Lincoln; Liverpool (Switch); Macclesfield; Manchester; Nottingham; Rotherham; Sheffield; Southend; Stoke on Trent; Streatham; London SW16; Telford; Worcester; Tunbridge Wells; Coventry; Plymouth; SCOTLAND Aberdeen; Edinburgh; Glasgow

Quay; Kilmarnock WALS; Bridgehead; Cardiff; Croydon; Wrexham

WARNER CINEMAS Acton; Basingstoke; Bolton; Bristol; Bury; Cambridge; Croydon; Dagenham; Doncaster; Finchley; Harrow; Leeds; Leicester; Newcastle; Preston; Sheffield; Thurrock; Watford; York SCOTLAND Inverness

WAKING NED PREVIEW

TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

هكنا من الأهل

POP

Rollin

COMEDY

Bit of beet

COLOUR OF JUSTICE

MUST SEE

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 234 1317

The Tories, on a hiding to nothing

Labour's last landslide was only a start, predicts Gerald Kaufman

Straw in the doghouse (say some). Cook and Lloyd in trouble with the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Fears about GM foods cut Labour's opinion poll lead. Yet that lead is still far higher than on election day in May 1997. And Tony Blair's phenomenal popularity endures, while that of William Hague explores previously unknown depths.

"Ah," say the wisecracks (as they have been saying since Blair succeeded as Labour leader in 1994), "it can't last." Mid-term blues are sure to set in, the Tories will recover support and, even if Labour wins the next election, it will be with a reduced majority.

Really? Why? We are in mid-term already, with a general election quite likely the year after next. Although the Government still seems brand new, it has been in office for a year and ten months. Yet, although some of its ratings have been dented by recent controversies, its predominance over the Conservatives continues, with the Liberal Democrats as almost irrelevant also-rans. All the objective evidence points to a landslide even greater than that of 1997.

In 1997 I told Tony Blair he would obtain at least 400 Labour MPs, and he did not believe me, expecting a majority of about 50. Yet not only the opinion polls but canvassing evidence pointed to an enormous Labour win. Sir John Goss believed me sufficiently to put money on his Labour opponent gaining the Henderson seat he had held for 27 years; he won his bet.

So inbred was the Labour Party's culture of defeat that even senior members could not bring themselves to credit the possibility of the historic win they went on to achieve. Similarly, despite the 1997 landslide and the continuing popularity of the Government, some ministers gaze at me as if I were mad when I assure them that the party will gain seats at the next election.

Yet the likelihood of such a victory is obvious. For anyone with eyes to see, the entire British political landscape has been transformed. From 1945 to 1997, inclusive, that landscape was easily discernible. On the left was Labour. On the right were the Tories. In between were the Liberals, or whatever they happened to be calling themselves at the time, bestowing their fickle favours.

Now, however, the Liberal Democrats have become the left-wing party, taking over from the discredited and impotent hard-left remnant inside the Parliamentary Labour Party the advocacy of increased social spending and increased taxes to pay for it. If that profuse attitude were alone insufficient to make alliance with the Tories impossible, the Lib Dems' extreme pro-Europeanism makes any association with the Eurosceptic Conservative leadership inconceivable.

The Lib Dems are now, despite their increased Commons representation, a Parliamentary appendage of new Labour. One Lib Dem MP complained to me: "The La-

bour Party are taking us for a ride," I replied. "Yes, but it's the only ride you've got."

As for the Conservatives, they have turned themselves into a fringe party, weaker even than Labour was after its 1983 longest-suicide-note debacle. Even after that worst electoral setback in its history, Labour's continued existence was necessary, since there were millions of voters who would have been unrepresented without it; the poor, the deprived, the unemployed, the ethnic minorities. There is, on the other hand, no significant element in society which would be unrepresented if the Tories shut up shop, especially since we now have a very different sort of Labour Party.

Under Margaret Thatcher the Tories were an exclusive party — motto, "Those who are not with us are against us" — who triumphed because their opponents were divided. Under Tony Blair, Labour is inclusive, with the motto: "Those who are not against us may be with us." New Labour is not the centre party, but the centre-of-gravity party, with Blair daily adjusting the tiller to maintain his Government's dominance of British politics, with the Tories and Liberals filling the spaces he does not choose to occupy.

Moreover, those spaces are liable to contract. Labour's 1997 landslide, though overwhelming, was incomplete. Because of the residue of the extremism and division that pervaded Labour until Blair took over, many voters feared that the old Labour Party wolf lurked beneath the new Labour carapace. Two years of new Labour Government have banished that phantom.

Many 1997 Conservatives may also vote for Blair next time because he, unlike Hague, is leaving the door to a single European currency open. A recent MORI poll showed that one third of Conservative voters would support a pro-euro Conservative Party; such a party is liable to siphon off Tory votes — and maybe seats — in this year's European elections conducted on a proportional representation system. In a first-past-the-post general election, Tory Europhiles might turn to Labour. Furthermore, a substantial proportion of 1997's 46 Lib Dem voters were elected partly on Labour tactical votes. Voters in some of those constituencies might decide to have real new Labour rather than its surrogate.

The scene, then, is set for a huge Labour victory at the next election. If, this spring, the Tories make headway in the local, Welsh, Scottish and even European elections, we shall be told that the Conservatives have made a comeback. Labour made big gains in the local and European elections in the 1980s, but was trounced in Parliamentary elections. Ambitious Tory MPs should look to alternatives to the ministerial careers they will never have.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester Gorton
comment@the-times.co.uk



No laughing matter

In an age of sneering, Post-Modernist cynicism, we have forgotten the joke

As chilly gales rake the land and the Home Secretary sweeps back to chastise us, I offer two cheerful pieces of news on the nation's moral health. One is that the first edition of *The Beano*, a limp relic from 1938, has sold after a frenzied auction for the record sum of £6,200, complete with free Whoopie Mask and a cast of characters including Big Eggo the Ostrich, Ping the Elastic Man, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff and Uncle Windbag.

A sentimental tear springs to the eye. We shall not look upon their like again. Or perhaps, come to think of it, the tear is brought on by the fact that we look upon their like rather too often. For what is that weekly contest across the dispatch boxes, if not a duel between Ping the Elastic Man and the bald-pated ostrich figure of Big Eggo himself?

Meanwhile Uncle Windbag jets home from the Riviera to lecture us all on our failures of citizenship, and his sidekick, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff — Shriek! Gnash! Aargh! — manages to put a dummy security camera on the most sensitive site in London. *The Beano* got there first, as ever.

The other encouraging cultural news is from a conference at the National Film Theatre: the *Carry On* films are having a youth revival. Dr Andrew Medhurst, of Sussex University, informs us that students no longer despise such classics as *Carry On Camping*, but embrace them. "In Blair's Britain," he says, "we're always being told to be decent upstanding citizens. It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'Sod that. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh!'"

Well, he may be right, although drinking and groping have not exactly vanished from the TV schedules. Myself, I offer an opposing analysis. I think we are nostalgic for the *Carry On* films for the same reason that we treasure *The Beano*: we are bored with freedom, and nostalgic for rules and for a time when it really was fun to send up authority and respectability, because both could be taken comfortably for granted. As the century ends in an atmosphere of sneering, debunking and joyless sexual mayhem, we are homesick for lost boundaries.

It is no fun being Dennis the Menace if there is no furious Dad to chase you with a slipper. The contemplation of foul-mouthed

ladettes may make us yearn to hear Barbara Windsor squeak "Blimey" again; the age of angry, chippy professional superwomen might well bring on a sneaking nostalgia for the majestic confidence of Matron Hattie Jacques, bearing down on her victim with an giant enema. There is nothing like a background of stability and dullness to make jokes shine.

Look how moist-eyed Britain became upon the death of dear Derek Nimmo, the hopeless Rev Noote of *All Gas and Gaiters*: we were reminded of the sheer fun to be had from mocking the clergy in the days when it was brave. Then, the BBC trembled: today Dawn French can portray a man-crazy Vicar of Dibley with hardly a frisson (but fewer laughs). Remember when cinemas rocked with wicked laughter at James Robertson Justice playing the consultant Sir Lancelot Spratt, or Alastair Sim impersonating a headmistress. Where are the awe-some figures of authority now? Spitting Images, every one, assumed to be discredited before they even begin; endlessly renewable fodder for the dry, mindless, Post-Modern ironies of the Angus Deayton age.

We have lost the true pleasures of baiting sacred cows because the only sacred cows now are PC ideologies, whose ascendancy can be challenged only by being nasty about the vulnerable. The beauty of mocking authority, from *The Beano* to *Star Billie*, was that authority could take it: the best jokes stood up for fallible, naughty humanity, rather than doing it down.

Remember the radio classic *Round the Horne*, in which a notionally strait-laced Britain revelled in the mincing innuendo of Julian and Sandy and their perennial cry of "Ooh, in 'nec bold!" That heady sense of baffling the censor is

lost today, when Channel 4 seems hardly even bold in showing the seduction of a 15-year-old boy by an older man, and even teenagers groan "Oh no, not another transsexual prostitute" as they zap away from the BBC to a multisexual punch-up on Jerry Springer.

There is nothing to be daring about, now. My favourite birthday present is an original copy of the BBC Variety Programme's Policy Guide for 1948, including the famous: *Absolutely ban upon jokes about the following: Lavatories; Efficiency in men; Immorality of any kind. Suggestive reference to: Honey-moon couples; Chambermaids; Fig leaves; Prostitution; Ladies underwear; e.g. winter draws on; Animal habits, e.g. rabbits; Lodgers; Commercial travellers.*

It adds that "the vulgar use of such words as 'basket' must also be avoided" and bans Bible jokes, with the mysterious exception of those about Noah. Against that background it is easy to see why a golden age of comedy blossomed in the 1950s.

The best analysis comes from George Orwell, writing in 1942 about the postcards of Donald McGill. He contrasts them with American and continental cartoons and notes their moral core: "Whereas in papers like *Esquire* or *La Vie Parisienne*, the imaginary background of the jokes is always promiscuity, the utter breakdown of all standards, the background of the McGill postcard is marriage. The four leading jokes are: nakedness, illegitimate babies, old maids and newly married couples, none of which would seem funny in a really dissolute or even 'sophisticated' society."

He cites the joke of a young husband getting out of bed the day after the wedding, with inset the picture of the front doorstep bearing four days' newspapers and milk, and observes: "Its implication —

and this is just the implication that *Esquire* or *The New Yorker* would avoid at all costs — is that marriage is something profoundly exciting and important, the biggest event in the average human being's life. So also with jokes about nagging wives and tyrannous mothers-in-law. They do at least imply a stable society in which marriage is indissoluble and family loyalty taken for granted."

McGill and the rest, Orwell said, represented a safety-valve, a necessary raspberry blown at inspirational "speeches of Prime Ministers, solidarity songs of public schools and left-wing political parties, national anthems, Temperance tracts, papal encyclicals and sermons against gambling and contraception." Yet in that wartime year, he saw them against a background of an essentially solid community: "Nevertheless the high sentiments always win in the end: leaders who offer blood, toil, tears and sweat always get more out of their followers than those who offer safety and a good time. When it comes to the pinch, human beings are heroic."

"Women face childhood and the scrubbing brush, revolutionaries keep their mouths shut in the torture chamber, battleships go down with their guns still firing when their decks are awash. It is only that the other element in man, the lazy, cowardly, debt-balking adulterer who is inside all of us, can never be suppressed altogether and needs a hearing occasionally..." That 1940s world and its values are now quite gone.

Forty-seven years on, we speak more often of our right to be well-treated than of our duty to be good, still less heroic. Maybe the lazy, grumbling, promiscuous, promise-breaking, debunking creature has broken too far out. Maybe our nostalgia for the comedy of the sober and dourful mid-century years recognises that. The innocence of the jokes brings back the days when Joe Englishman was still on his best behaviour, still met adversity with "mustn't grumble" and "worse things happen at sea", and needed McGill and *The Beano* and Frankie Howerd and Sid James to blow his raspberries for him. Today everything is a grumble or a raspberry. It gets less funny by the day.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Libby Purves

'The Internet is not all listed buildings and photos of roses and Prince William — 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography'

Richard Tyrrell

The cyber future is on us and if you are not online by now you may as well be dead. If you have no e-mail address you're a walking piece of history, as out of date as papyrus. The launch of the Pentium III is here, technology so advanced it makes jet planes look like carthorses. The latest generation of microchip processors is already causing a huge fall in the price of existing PCs. The entire national heritage — 360,000 listed buildings — is to go on the Internet. And, best of all, computers are to be free. Compaq has announced that it is seriously considering the idea: Free-PC is giving away 10,000 computers to anyone willing to use them for ten hours a week.

The Internet is simply the most powerful force in society. Business? Do it on the Web. Shares? Buy them on the Web. Books? Read them on the Web. Films?

Watch them on the Web. Clip your toenails? Do it in front of a webcam on your PC, so others can share the experience.

Few indeed are the Luddite voices speaking out against the Internet. I know of a few old novelists and poets — all over 50 — who still write their books with pen and ink. Texts can usually be read on the Web. There are many elderly people who don't know what Microsoft Explorer is. That's OK. There are plenty of Web tutorials.

But perhaps it is time to remind ourselves that all is not right with the Internet. The technology is fine, but is the public mature enough for 100 per cent access to what amounts to a free-for-all? Aren't there social issues surrounding the content of the Internet? Do we know what its effects will be?

Let us remember that the Internet is not all listed buildings

and photos of roses and Prince William. According to my *Rough Guide to the Internet*, 1999 edition, 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography. A great many men buy PCs and worse — webcams — primarily for sexual gratification. Anyone who has logged on to the family zone of Microsoft NetMeeting, as I have, and found themselves chatting to somebody named "Hairy Hound" (who has sat for two hours in front of his PC in his underwear), will quickly recognise that the Net is the natural home of voyeurs.

It is also, far more seriously, the natural home of child pornographers and extremists. Child pornographers are clever enough to stay one step ahead of the police by setting up their

services in countries with poor law enforcement — Iran, or Russia. A favourite ruse is to attach their wares to legal porn sites by means of the serial link — that is, when you click on an icon your PC automatically opens up a haze of other Web sites. Among these will be the bestiality, rape, or child-abuse site. Surfers foolish enough to stray into this territory — from curiosity or rebelliousness — are likely to find themselves carrying the mental scars for a long time.

Similarly, it is simply to link to pages of political hate groups. The ideas of neo-Nazis or white supremacists look comic in the cold light of day. And they would be, were it not that these people are organised, and still finding recruits. What

those recruits do is a secret only the initiated know. Yaron Svoray, who wrote a book on European neo-Nazism, described how his own initiation included being guest of honour at a snuff movie and having a gun held jokingly to his head.

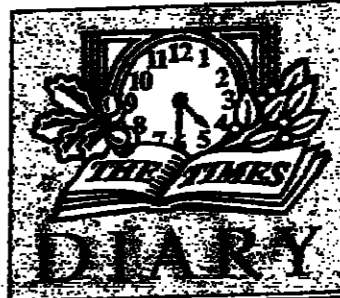
Neo-Nazis, such as the group surrounding the sinister Friedrich Bisse in Germany, are quite frank about their plans to become "respectable". To build links with established right-wing groups, to gain credibility, as the far Right has done in France, and to come out as full-blown Nazis only when the time is right. With limited resources, the surest way of spreading the word is on a free, worldwide media.

Seth Warshawsky, a 25-year-old porn millionaire, has claimed that the Internet is normalising porn. It may well normalise hate, too. It may normalise a lot of things that are not socially

desirable. It is already encouraging onanism, and rapidly ousting the popularity of phone sex. Most Web users are capable of leading routine, well-balanced lives (even if they do a bit of naughty surfing). It is the lonely, whose only outlet is their imagination, who are more at risk. In their search for the new image, the virtual friend, the fresh idea, the more risqué photo, one can see the fault-lines where child pornography or political extremism may find a convert.

So while the Cyber Age is still in the ascendant, let's have pause for thought. The Internet is a place of creativity but no poetry; of high ideals and low instincts. If we embrace it and praise it unquestioningly, we collude with its child abusers and haters. A great deal of work remains to be done on its dimly lit zones

comment@the-times.co.uk



The love of Mike

DIANE ABBOTT starred with Michael Portillo and played the Tory's wife in a school play, I have learnt. The lefty MP was at Harrow County Girls, while Portillo, both pictured, was at the boys' school. The production also saw a buccaneering Clive Anderson. Hitherto, Jonathan Aitken, godfather to Diane's son, was believed to be the only dashing right-winger she would let near her balcony.

"I also offered her Lady Macbeth in my *Macbeth* film," says Portillo. "Sadly, the juries failed to raise enough finance." Some say she also played Juliet to Michael's Romeo, but she claims this as "BO sneers" (she has been pestering about arms to Africa). "I did play opposite Portillo — but not as his lover."



A KUWAITI prince popped into Heathrow's duty-free for a spot of therapy recently. He spent £6,500 on 49 bottles each of cognac, gin and whisky, having them wrapped in cigarette boxes — to "ease their passage" into the dry kingdom.

■ EGO overload in Piccadilly, where Richard Branson's plan for a "mega-bar" has been blocked. His "giant entertainment centre" was to join Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Marco Pierre White's Titanic in the gloomy Regent Palace Hotel. Branson hoped to set up a series of private "lounges" (oh dear) but planners might be worried about the flurry of writs Peyton has issued against other caterers on the site, claiming he is solely entitled to trade there.

BATTERED ministers moan that Sir William Macpherson of Cluny has had an easy ride from the race lobby, despite his bracing immigration record. "He was the kind of judge," jokes a minister, "who would decide a case by asking 'smoking or non-smoking?' and send the blighter back on the next plane." Bunkum, I'm sure.

■ THE dodgy general set to rule Nigeria learnt his trade from Ken Livingstone and his GLC cronies. Osegun Obasanjo, whose "victory" has been questioned amid church vote-rigging claims, was chums with Ilyd Harrington. Ken's deputy during his reign in London. "He helped me with the Buddhist peace pagoda in Battersea," says Ilyd. "He was strangely keen to help." I trust he did not try to teach Ken about ballot-rigging.

DONNISH scenes at Magdalen, Oxford. As snells rambled towards dinner (to mark the opening of a new auditorium) a kerfuffle broke out over a gown between Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor, and Lord Neill of Bladen. Finally, the latter grabbed it: "It's mine! It belonged to Harold Macmillan."



■ LORD SALISBURY was a greater Tory PM than Disraeli, a forthcoming biography by Andrew Roberts will claim. The fashionable historian argues in an early proof that the peer was even more Machiavellian in clambering up the greasy pole. Roger Scruton agrees. "Salisbury was the most successful PM we have had because we know nothing about him," says the editor of the *Salisbury Review*. "He left the country as he had found it, the ideal politician. If it required cunning and intrigue, so be it. I admire Disraeli but he hardly left the world unnoticed." Such are the perverse criteria for being a Tory great.

SILLY claims that the BBC is in bed with Labour take a strange turn. No sooner than Lance Price leaves his slot as a Beeb toiler to help Alastair Campbell stamp out dissent, but Bill Bush, the BBC's election chief, jumps in beside them working in the Strategic Communications Unit. Most rum.

JASPER GERARD



CARE FREE

A Royal Commission of royal extravagance

Days before the general election, Tony Blair accused the Conservative Government of forcing "thousands of pensioners to sell their homes to pay for long-term care". Pensioners deserve better than Mr Blair stated. A Royal Commission was promised to recommend how the rising cost of looking after an ageing nation might be met. After over a deliberation, its 12 members could be on a way forward. Yesterday the produced proposals which, including the core problems, would submit future governments to public expenditure. Only two dissenting from these old Labour to trust the State, argued that to this complex problem lies private, not public, hands. The should on this occasion listen minority.

Of the current system are who have been prudent for old age, and whose £16,000, are not entitled to pay for care in nursing homes. As a result, every year, pensioners have to sell their "their sense of injustice is the lottery of illness: a patient with cancer is the NHS, while nursing a patient with Alzheimer's

pathy and willingness to problems is tempered by the of doing so. Already, long the State about £7 billion a the system is changed, uish and bills will rise growing proportion of y 2031, about one in five of will be over retirement age. conundrum, the majority of nission did indeed think the ut not in the way that the intended. Its proposal that d fund the care and social ng and residential homes payers over £6 billion by

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

clear election result but a clouded future

have been accusations of ars of independence, there a single fair or clean igeria. But despite the European and American s clear that Olusegun former military ruler, was wing winner as the next nt, even if all fraudulent nited. His victory is a rare ition in a country that has mocracy, almost no good l is seen as one of the most world. He takes office in a Herculean challenge to African equivalent of the

e up to the task. A gruff who won distinction as a andler, he has a national i goes beyond tribal allears of domination by the of the few southerners who country. He is less popular in ba heartland than in other ia: that is a measure of his not to allow the old tradi- itialty to cloud his appointments. Three years rictising the military have utation for decency. ate job is to keep Nigeria's air barracks and root out e abused their position. This of the clique around Sani military dictator, made ough the plunder of the alth and the manipulation of xchange and import regula-

BRING BACK MR CHIPS

re teachers have much to add to their profession

ke a maths teacher to work ution does not balance: in Wales some 8,000 teachers seeking work in schools: ssrooms all over Britain are pe with serious shortages of something is not adding up ch-touted education policy. : profession has long been a riment concern. Excessive ng hours and disruptive ntributed to a steady decline t figures. Low pay leads to m. And where unruly chil- sidered a disruption on the s. Britain's teachers have e flak. And so, in an effort to rned image of teaching, ent has pieced together a £130 age of measures intended o candidates to the profession. e cinema's "nobody forgets a er" campaign which added re, a Green Paper on the future g, published at the end of last posed "golden hellos" worth science teachers and perform- ed pay measures which would aries up from a pittance to ve rates. t, even as government money is tempting new teachers, a jobsack- ance is paid out to thousands of

2051. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has wisely kicked this into the long grass of public debate. No amount of government spending is likely to satisfy the public's expectations of what the State should provide. Such an explosion in expenditure would do little to help the less well-off, whose care bills the State already covers, but might provoke a rise in demand for free care and deter people from taking out private insurance. If they want help with their living costs, elderly people will still be means-tested; so some might still need to sell their homes. Overall, the chances are that a future government would abolish such a scheme, unable to meet spiralling costs without hefty rises in taxation.

Fortunately, two members of the commission, David Lipsey and Joel Joffe, were not tempted to follow their colleagues into this high-spending nirvana. Their minority report is predicated on the more realistic notion that the State cannot — and should not — promise to pay for all the costs of long-term care. Dissent has produced some imaginative ideas. For example, they suggest a state-sponsored scheme to enable elderly people to borrow against the value of their home to fund care. Mr Lipsey proposes that no one should have to fund their care in a residential or nursing home for more than four years, making it easier for people to save or insure for their future.

Commonsense schemes like these would create new incentives for people to take care of themselves. Yet such tinkering amounts to a nudge in the direction of the private sector, where a forceful push is required. Across Europe, governments face the same dilemma of how diminishing workforces might support the growing band of elderly people in the next millennium. The Government is right to be cool towards the majority report's solution, which would help to bankrupt the nation. But the existing unfair, antiquated system is bankrupting thousands of prudent pensioners. The ball is once more back in the Government's court to think the unthinkable.

tions. They did not expect General Abdulsalam Abubakar to allow any democratic elections, still less to set in train the retribution that must now follow years of democratic and human rights abuses. Sullen and fearful, they are itching to stage a new coup. Mr Obasanjo must use all his military and moral authority to enforce his will.

The harder, longer-term job is the rebuilding of the shattered economy. Social services have collapsed, hospitals, schools and roads are crumbling, legitimate business is impossible. In one of Africa's richest countries, millions now live in poverty. Rooting out corruption is an urgent but slow job: so ingrained is the practice that few now understand how to do business or administer government cleanly. The repair of the oil industry must be a priority: but the low oil price, the environmental devastation already caused to the Delta and the sometimes well-founded suspicion against multinationals all make it harder to generate wealth from the ground.

Mr Obasanjo can count on international support: Europe and the Commonwealth should end remaining sanctions as swiftly as possible, and the rest of Africa will rally to Nigeria. Mobilising domestic support will be harder. The refusal by Olu Falae, the election loser, to accept the result is as unfortunate as it is inevitable. It could be exploited to create the very instability that would thwart the transition to civilian rule. Expectations are high — perhaps too high. Mr Obasanjo must move swiftly and sure-footedly if he is to save his country.

applicants hoping for teaching work. For mature entrants into the profession, and for those returning after a break, opportunities are surprisingly scarce. Schools find it cheaper to recruit young graduates. And older applicants may find it almost impossible to gain work at a salary commensurate with their experience. The Government must consider ways of using earmarked funds to redress this imbalance. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has pointed a finger at incompetent teachers suggesting that education remains "too much a lottery" because of patchy standards of teaching. Nervous young newcomers may be a cause of such unevenness. Maturer teachers often have a presence and authority which some younger recruits lack. Not only may they command more respect, but their firm grasp of a subject can lead to an inspiring confidence in imparting their knowledge. Moreover, several of these older teachers have opted for teaching as a second career. Many bring relevant experience from the fields of business and industry into the classroom. The teaching profession has long recognised a need for this. Children need to find their lessons applicable in some way to the world outside. And while Britain's schooling system continues to resist these older recruits, it is wasting one of its most precious resources.

Schools and the Lawrence inquiry

From Professor Bernard Crick

Sir, Your leading article today is wise and forceful to argue against the Macpherson report's recommendation of an annual publication of school-by-school lists of "racist incidents" and ethnic (which is a better word) identifications of pupils excluded.

This would almost certainly be counter-productive and a measure, not of professional competence in difficult and delicate situations, but of the social, ethnic and religious composition of neighbourhoods.

However, the idea that the curriculum should be amended "in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society" is not so out of line with the recommendations of the advisory group on The Teaching of Citizenship and Democracy in Schools that I had the honour to chair (1997-98), so long as ethnic relations are part of a broader programme of citizenship learning. We said, for instance,

... a main aim for the whole community should be to find or restore a sense of common citizenship that is secure enough to find a place for the plurality of nations, cultures and ethnic identifications and religions long found in the United Kingdom.

Many of our precise learning "targets" are relevant to this good purpose.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD CRICK,
8a Bellevue Terrace,
Edinburgh EH7 4DT.
February 26.

From Commander Michael Saunders Watson

Sir, The Macpherson report recommends that the national curriculum should be amended "better to reflect the needs of a diverse society". When the National Curriculum History Working Group was set up in 1989 we were instructed to put British history at the core of our recommendations and, inter alia, to address the question of what history should be taught to the ethnic minorities.

In the case of the former we took account of the histories of the four countries which make up the UK, and from which as a multicultural society it draws its strength. For instance in the area of human rights, we gave weight both to the Declaration of Arbroath in Scotland and to Magna Carta in England.

In the course of our work we visited a number of schools with pupils from many ethnic backgrounds. One, I recall, included pupils speaking over 50 national languages. Their teachers were adamant that they should be taught the history of the country of their adoption. To do otherwise would, they felt, not only be impractical but divisive.

While our recommended course of history therefore focused on Britain, we did include study units relating to areas of the world from which many of these pupils originated.

Sadly, other pressures have intervened to reduce both the content and amount of history being taught in schools.

I trust, however, that the essential features of British history, based on a tolerant absorption of the many cultures of its people over time, will remain and in due course benefit from the invigorating effect which those from foreign shores bring to our islands. This must be the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAUNDERS WATSON
(Chairman, National Curriculum History Working Group, 1988-90),
Rockingham Castle,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire LE16 8TH.
March 1.

From Mr Rex Walford and Ms Christine Counsell

Sir, You urge circumspection in any amendment to the national curriculum in the light of the recommendations of the Lawrence report. We agree.

Giving all young people a thorough and enlightened understanding of our nation's multicultural past and of the diversity of the world's peoples is surely the basis of future racial harmony in Britain. Our best history and geography teachers foster wide knowledge of these issues and critical engagement with them.

If the Secretary of State for Education would give as much attention to the teaching of geography and history as he does the so-called "core" subjects (especially by supporting them, rather than marginalising them, in the key years of 14 to 16, at Key Stage 4) much could be achieved in advancing both relevant knowledge and positive attitudes in a multicultural Britain.

Yours sincerely,
REX WALFORD
(Geographer),
CHRISTINE COUNSELL
(Historian),
School of Education,
University of Cambridge,
17 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge CB2 1QA.
gg210@hermes.cam.ac.uk
February 26.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Debate over royalties on art works

From Mr Robert J. Waterhouse

Sir, The proposed *droit de suite* tax on art sales (report, February 22, leading article, February 25) — now, thankfully, put on hold by the EU (report, February 26) — would require that "art" be defined and a comprehensive system set up to monitor the sale of every "work of art", collect revenues and distribute them as appropriate.

Bearing in mind that most art has little commercial value, the cost of running a Europe-wide scheme would probably be greater than the revenue collected. No doubt the taxpayer will be expected to pay for the army of inspectors, administrators and accountants who would operate the scheme, presumably from some comfortable base in continental Europe.

It would be necessary for these officials to study the wills of all artists, and wills of their beneficiaries, in order to distribute the revenue correctly — a colossal undertaking and yet another intrusion of officialdom into the lives of Europe's citizens.

There can be no logical basis for treating the descendants of artists differently from the descendants of anyone else. It would be no more foolish to extend the scheme to cover the descendants of artists' models, who receive a pittance. And what about people whose property is included, without any payment, in a landscape picture? Shouldn't they get something out of all this too, since it is the image of their property that is being sold?

Only the European Union could waste its time on such nonsense.

Yours etc,
ROBERT J. WATERHOUSE,
5 Heatherbank,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5RE.
February 26.

From the Chairman of the British Copyright Council

Sir, Congratulations on including, at last, the artists' side of the case for the *droit de suite* (report, February 22). This royalty is long overdue (it is not a tax — since when did taxes go direct to private individuals?)

It has always been a matter of

puzzlement for those concerned about artists' earnings that the British art market apparently believes that passing 2 or 3 per cent of the resale price of a work to artists (or their heirs) will "destroy" the market, whereas the much larger commissions charged by dealers and the auctioneers (the latter to both buyers and sellers) evidently have no such effect.

The spokeswoman for the Matisse estate, quoted in your report, was spot-on in suggesting that the British trade could only be thinking of what they themselves might lose.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD DWORKIN,
Chairman, British Copyright Council,
Copyright House,
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.
February 25.

From Lord Jacobs

Sir, I wonder why our art dealers and auction houses cannot do what other business people do when faced with price competition — ie, match their competitors' prices and absorb the cost within their own price structure.

Auction houses could readily absorb, within the 10 per cent buyers' premium, a new tax of at least 2 per cent. Given the choice between lower margins or losing all their business, the former would surely be preferable.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY JACOBS,
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1 4QB.
February 25.

From Mr Jonathan Gestetner

Sir, What about works of art which sell at auction for less than the artist's original selling price (which happens far more frequently than the reverse)?

Would it not be as logical for the artist, or his estate, to participate in the next purchaser's loss as in his gain? Why should artists be rewarded on a "heads I win, tails you lose" basis?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN GESTETNER,
Marlborough Rare Books Ltd,
144-146 New Bond Street, W1Y 9FD.
jg@mrbb-books.co.uk
February 25.

not any veterans are ill. This is not to say that they are all suffering from psychologically-based illness, though some of them may be (and even they are still sick).

Also, the media appears to be exacerbating veterans' health more than "organophosphate exposure". A study published in last August's *American Journal of Epidemiology* showed how large increases in the reportage of symptoms by veterans corresponded to periods of intense media coverage.

It may be possible that veterans' legitimate illnesses have been somewhat obscured, but it may also be that we are, in some ways, simply scaring our veterans sick.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD FIENBERG
(Research analyst),
313 12th Street, SE,
Washington DC 20003.
hfienberg@stats.org
February 19.

champion player amongst those high-goal champions of all time in colourful Kipling-esque prewar India. There, Randal, as dashing ADC to the Viceroy and an army sabre champion, fought a famous duel with a cobra.

In your columns, long ago, Bernard Levin claimed that Randal's father, the 18th Lord, had written the finest first chapter in any "English" novel, in *The Curse of The Wise Woman*. Had Randal been 17th and not 19th Lord, maybe the 18th Lord — a dramatist and short-story writer — would have been inspired to, at very least, a most dashing biography.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD,
Chillingham Castle,
Chillingham,
Northumberland NE66 5NU.
February 24.

An Irish champion

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir, In your handsome obituary for the 19th Lord Dunsany (February 19) you write that he "probably lived most of his life in the shadow of his famous father Edward, the dramatist and short-story writer". He also lived "in the shadow of" (or did he bask in the light of?) his elegant mother, Beatrice, daughter of the Earl of Jersey.

His father's shade did not soften the desert for the then Randal Plunkett's astonishing wartime crossing of the Quattara Depression, which you mention. He achieved this feat to the applause of friend and foe alike, leading to safety men of that crack Indian Cavalry regiment, the Guides.

Paternalism shadowless, too, were the polo fields where he was a

Scottish parliament

From Mr Bob Cuddihy

Sir, You report (Scottish editions, February 24) that the BBC has decided against a dedicated digital/cable television feed providing full, live coverage of the Scottish parliament, in favour of selective coverage. Whom is the BBC serving in Scotland? Are services provided with a so-called metropolitan view in mind or for the Scottish licence-payers? If it is for the former then the latter can only feel cheated.

Who can say whether or not viewers would be "bored to tears", but, in any case, who says democracy was designed to provide "good" television? Will the proceedings of the Scottish parliament be any less boring than what passes for debate at Westminster? And how much relevance will Westminster's deliberations have on the everyday lives of the Scottish people?

Why not reverse the BBC's plans and show the complete proceedings of the Scottish parliament to viewers in Scotland, with proceedings at Westminster restricted to highlights?

Yours faithfully,
BOB CUDDIHY,
143 Constitution Street,
Edinburgh EH6 7AD.

A bishop's place 'is in the Lords'

From Mr John Wainwright

Sir, The general secretary of the National Secular Society, Mr K. Porteous Wood (letter, February 22), thinks there should be no bishops in a reformed House of Lords. I feel that the Government has acted in the public interest by supporting the retention of bishops for the transitional period and I am encouraged that it is looking for ways to increase representation from other Churches and religious traditions.

Parliament has to consider many ethical issues, such as the family, human sexuality, bio-ethics, the environment, education and overseas aid, which go well beyond the boundaries of political parties and on which religious leaders can often make important contributions. These are likely to increase rather than diminish.

Mr Porteous Wood thinks the presence of religious leaders in the Lords is undemocratic, but by the same criterion why should the secular values he espouses have what I consider to be a disproportionate influence on public opinion — and who has elected those members of the media who often seem to trivialise religious issues and unfairly stereotype religious people? At least having some official religious representatives in the Lords will, albeit in a very small way, help to give a fairer balance. As a professed democrat, Mr Porteous Woods should be in favour of this.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WAINWRIGHT
(Methodist lay preacher),
48 Borough Way, Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire EN6 3HB.
john.wainwright@btinternet.co.uk
February 23.

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, Mr Porteous Wood makes an unjustified assumption which I believe invalidates his argument. He says that "retaining the English bishops [in the Lords] disadvantages the third of the population who do not believe". It might advantage Anglicans, but it need not disadvantage anyone. The presence of good men and true can benefit all.

Yours,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale,
Preston, Lancashire PR5 4BQ.
February 22.

Houdini's film releases

From Professor Emeritus Edwin A. Dawes

Sir, *The Man from Beyond*, which you report (February 25) as being Harry Houdini's "one attempt to break into films", was not the only Houdini feature film (and has, in fact, been available on video in the US for several years). He started with the serial, *The Master Mystery* (notable for bringing the first robot to the screen), and ended (in 1923) with *Haldane of the Secret Service*.

His last two films were produced by his own Houdini's Motion Picture Corporation, a venture in which he lost some \$500,000, for reasons which will be readily apparent when the restored *The Man from Beyond* is screened at this month's Bradford Film Festival.

Sadly, Houdini's talents as a great showman and escapologist did not translate to the screen and, despite a fascinating Niagara Falls episode in *The Man from Beyond*, biographer Kenneth Silverman's observation that Houdini's acting in the film provided little more animation when his character was alive than when frozen in the ice tells all.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN A. DAWES
(Historian, The Magic Circle),
Dane Hill, 393 Beverley Road,
Anlaby, East Yorkshire HU10 7BQ.
March 1.

Names and numbers

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, Mr Harry Tate (letter, February 22; see also letters, February 22 and 25) tells us of the policy of the Australian State of Victoria, which allows drivers a wide personal choice of numberplate, and eventually amused, as I was, by the formation "OOO AAH" seen in Canberra last September.

A small notice in a side window contained the legend: "It may be your daughter on the back seat."

Yours etc,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue,
Crewe CW1 3SW.
a131755@btinternet.co.uk
February 27.

From Mr Alan Dale

Sir, Suppose that the system of vehicle registration had always been such that the owner's name or initial were compulsorily incorporated into the numberplate. Imagine the status to be gained by, and the cost of, beating the system and acquiring an entirely anonymous plate consisting of meaningless letters and numbers.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DALE,
Tangle Farm, Tangley,
Andover, Hampshire SP11 0RZ.
February 27.

OBITUARIES

AIR COMMODORE FREDERICK RAINSFORD



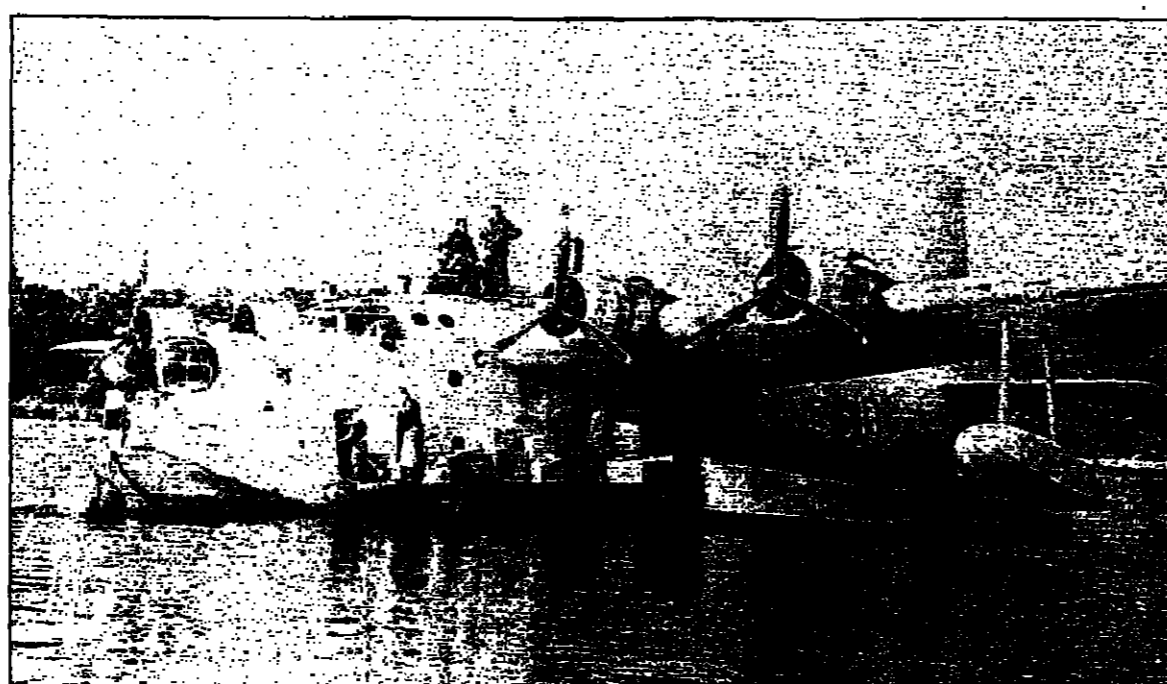
Air Commodore Frederick Rainsford, CBE, DFC, bomber pilot and diplomat, died on February 13 aged 89. He was born on December 12, 1909.

After spending part of the war endeavouring to destroy Berlin as a bomber pilot, Frederick Rainsford found himself playing a central role in preventing the inhabitants of the beleaguered city from starving in 1948-49. The remarkable Berlin Airlift came about when, in June 1948, the Soviet Union reneged on the postwar Four Power Agreement for the administration of the city and blockaded all land routes into it. Since Berlin lay so deep inside the Soviet zone of occupation, the intention — to lay exclusive hands on Germany's capital — was evident.

Rainsford, as senior staff officer in the Air Ministry, played a pivotal role in organising the British end of what became a substantially Anglo-American air bridge into Berlin. It was an operation which from small beginnings fed Berliners, heated their homes and kept the city's industries going for almost a year, until the Russians relented and normal routes to the city were opened again. Implementation of the alternative at first suggested by the Americans — an armed land convoy — would almost certainly have led to a head-on clash with the Russians and possibly to a third world war.

Frederick Fitzpatrick Rainsford was an Irishman, born the son of a Royal Irish Constabulary officer at Castlebar, Co Mayo. He was educated at Campbell College, from where he went as a pupil farmer to Kenya. In the early 1930s he returned to Northern Ireland, where in 1935 he took a degree in agriculture at Queen's University, Belfast. While at university he learnt to fly with an RAF Special Reserve Squadron and was given a commission in 1936. For the next few years he gained experience in bombers.

When war broke out he was serving with 215 Squadron in Cambridgeshire and was thereafter on training duties for more than a year. His war really began when he was sent, early in 1941,



A Sunderland flying boat delivers precious supplies to Lake Havel during the Berlin Airlift

to North Africa to take command of No 148, a Wellington squadron based on the Suez Canal.

As part of what was styled the Heavy Bomber Force (though the Wellington was really only a medium bomber) 148 regularly raided the harbour of Italian-occupied Benghazi, in what was known as the "Mail Run". The knack, as Rainsford later said, was to hit the harbour without damaging "Mae West", as the protruberant twin domes of the city's cathedral were known. When the Germans poured down through Greece, 148 Squadron added targets in the islands and on the Greek mainland to its list, and it also attacked the Vichy French in Lebanon.

Back in England, after further spells of training and a staff course, Rainsford was posted early in 1943 to the staff of 3 Group in Cambridgeshire, and spent the next six months planning raids on Berlin, the Ruhr and Nuremberg. In May that year he was given command of No 115, a Lancaster Squadron, and was soon in the thick of the Battle of the Ruhr which was then in full swing as Bomber Command tried to take the war to Germany's industrial heartland.

During a raid on Krefeld he had the disappointing experience of having a 4,000lb bomb "hang up" on him, resisting the most desperate attempts of all his crewmen in turn to chop it clear of the bomb bay with the aircraft's axe. Rainsford gave his crew the option of baling out over England rather than participate in an attempted landing with such a lethal cargo, but to a man they chose to stay. While all on board, and in the control tower at 115's base at East Wretham, Norfolk, held their breath, Rainsford pulled off one of his most silky touchdowns. In July

1943 he and his squadron took part in the Battle of Hamburg, witnessing the firestorm which devastated the city. In the following month he and 115 were in the attack which wrecked the V2 testing site at Peenemünde on the Baltic Sea. He was awarded his DFC that autumn.

After this second tour of operations Rainsford spent the rest of the war on the staff and in training posts. In 1946 he briefly became a civil servant, but he was shortly afterwards offered a permanent commission which he gladly accepted.

One of his most important jobs in the Air Transport Department, to which he was posted in 1947 as deputy director of operations, was to organise what was known as the Trunk Route to Singapore. In those days before long-range jet transport shrank it to less than 12 hours, the distance represented a five-day haul, and the maintenance of effective facilities along the route was vital for the supply and, in emergency, the reinforcement of bases in the Far East. The experience of honing such an operation to perfection was to stand Rainsford in good stead when a supply crisis of a very different sort was to burst on him closer to home.

When the Berlin crisis broke he was No 2 to Air Commodore David Atcherley, the Director of Air Support and Transport Operations. But Atcherley was almost immediately posted away to command the Central Fighter Establishment, and Rainsford assumed sole responsibility for the British effort.

At first it looked a hopeless task. But with a motley collection of aircraft both military and civil pressed into service, the daily tonnage leapt up from 400

tons a day on July 3, 1948, to 750 tons a day by July 7, and so on up to an eventual total of 4,000 tons a day. An aircraft took off or landed at RAF Gatow in the British sector of Berlin every 90 seconds, carrying food, fuel and light machinery, and these were supplemented by Sunderland flying boats, which came in from Hamburg and put down on Lake Havel, bringing cargoes of coal.

Rainsford had to battle not only with logistics, but with the Treasury, which cavilled at the expense of chartering vast numbers of civil aircraft to supplement the RAF's transports. Rainsford told its officials that the avoidance of a world war was his first priority and that the cost of that would have to be worked out afterwards. Indeed, the British and Americans were prepared for an indefinite operation. And then, suddenly, in the summer of 1949 it was all over. The Russians gave up and lifted the blockade as precipitately as they had imposed it. Rainsford was appointed CBE for the part he had played.

His subsequent postings included a spell as Air Attaché at the Athens Embassy, 1957-60, and he retired from the RAF in 1962. But a new career in diplomacy awaited him, first with the Commonwealth Relations Service and, in the latter he had a period as Deputy Consul General in New York.

In 1972 Rainsford finally retired to the Kentish Weald where he had previously bought a house. An autobiography, *Memoirs of an Accidental Airman*, appeared in 1986.

Rainsford is survived by his second wife Audrey and by their daughter and son, and by two daughters of an earlier marriage which was dissolved.

KING OPOKU WARE II OF ASHANTI

King Opopu Ware II of Ashanti, died in Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana, on February 25 aged 79. He was born on November 30, 1919.



Loyalty to his people without disturbing the relationship with Accra: King Opopu Ware II at a Grand Durbar, 1991

THE 15th Asantehene, as the King of Ashanti is known, Opopu Ware II ruled an ancient kingdom that is now an administrative region of Ghana. He did so in a manner which maintained the dignity of his position and people without disturbing the delicate relationship between Ashanti and the central government in Accra. A London-trained barrister, he had succeeded to the Golden Stool, as the Ashanti throne is styled, in 1970 on the death of King Prempeh II, his second cousin, who had ruled from 1931.

The genealogy of the Kings of Ashanti is a complex one, succession being matrilineal from the first Asantehene, King Osei Tutu, who came to the throne some time around 1675. The Ashanti Kingdom reached the zenith of its power in the 19th century when it covered an area of West Africa corresponding to much of modern Ghana as well as of neighbouring Burkina Faso, Togo and the Ivory Coast.

The Ashanti were in conflict with colonial Britain in the late 19th century and in 1896 British troops occupied the ancient capital, Kumasi, and deposed King Prempeh I. The Asantehene and many of his officials were sent into exile to the Seychelles. But the British were to find — as the governments of an independent Ghana have also experienced — that the cultural prestige of the Ashanti simply cannot be ignored. The British authorities were forced to relent and in 1925 Prempeh was brought back to Kumasi and reinstated as King, ruling until his death in 1931.

As Matthew Poku, the future King Opopu Ware II read for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He served in a number of capacities in the old colony of Gold Coast: he was a surveyor in the RAF and became the first president of the African Civil Aviation Commission. The Gold Coast became independent as Ghana in 1957, the first of Britain's sub-Saharan African colonies to do so. But its first Prime Minister (and subsequently President), Kwame Nkrumah, was de-

posed for abuses of power in 1966 and Poku served the successor regime as Commissioner for Communications. In 1970 he was appointed Ghana's Ambassador to Italy, but before he could take up his post King Prempeh II died and he was chosen 15th Asantehene from among the dead King's relations on his mother's side. He was "enstooled" at Kumasi on July 6, 1970.

The new Asantehene continued the tradition of striking a careful balance between visible allegiance to the Ghanaian state and his responsibility to the Ashanti people. For its part the state was careful not to offend this most visible and glamorous ethnic group which, although it constitutes only 30 per cent of Ghana's population, is the focus of widespread interest outside Africa for its cultural vitality.

Indeed, although he has no executive power in Ghana, the Asantehene is treated almost as a head of state in his own right. All heads of state visiting Ghana pay their respects in Kumasi and on one of his first trips abroad, a visit to Britain, King Opopu Ware II was received at Buckingham Palace. He was fortunate in his

wife, Lady Victoria, a member of an influential Ashanti family and an adroit diplomat in her own right. She was always at his side on foreign trips and fully understood the need to balance the preservation of Ashanti tradition with the opening up of the monarchy to the modern world. She was active in arranging the spectacular Ashanti exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in London in 1981. When the exhibition subsequently transferred to New York, members of the American black community thronged the city's streets to catch a glimpse of the Asantehene, who had gone to the United States for the occasion.

Though by 1995 terminally ill with cancer, Victoria also played a prominent role in Opopu Ware's silver jubilee that year. In a celebration dazzling in its colour and light, chiefs in traditional robes, weighed down by gold and jewellery, came with their entourages to pay their respects to the leader of the Ashanti race.

Lady Victoria died in 1996. King Opopu Ware II is survived by a son and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

1-3-Hugh, suddenly on 28th February. Deceased husband of the late Mary and beloved Father of Oonagh, Hugh, Shanna and Fiona, adored and loving Grandfather of his 14 Grandchildren. Deeply mourned by all who knew him. Requiem Mass at St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Ecclesfield Road, Sheffield, on Friday 5th March at 10am. No flowers please but donations for CAFOD may be sent to CAFOD, 100 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S1 6AB. Obituary in *PA*.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TANNER - Professor P.A. (Tony), a Memorial Service for Professor Tony Tanner will be held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 6th March 1999.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BOOTH - Roland Gordon, died 3rd March 1999, beloved husband of Nancy, father of Emma and Claire. Remembered today and always. HOLLAND - Pat, much missed and always remembered. Much loved by all his family, Robin.

BIRTHDAYS

YAMA Hagiyo Shizuko, was born in 1909. I never forgot her. She was a very special lady. Born on 10th March 1909. All our love. Ann, Carol, David, Susan and all the family.

SERVICES

PLUMBER PARTNERS National Heating Agency 24 hrs. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

WANTED

FOR HIRE: 24 hrs. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCORD VICTORY World War II. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAILABLE. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

WINTER SPORTS

SKI TOTAL. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLATSHARE

SHARPLEY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

SITUATIONS WANTED

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

MORNING SUITS

FOR HIRE. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCORD VICTORY World War II. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

WINTER SPORTS

SKI TOTAL. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLATSHARE

SHARPLEY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

SITUATIONS WANTED

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

MORNING SUITS

FOR HIRE. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCORD VICTORY World War II. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

WINTER SPORTS

SKI TOTAL. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLATSHARE

SHARPLEY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

SITUATIONS WANTED

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

MORNING SUITS

FOR HIRE. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCORD VICTORY World War II. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

WINTER SPORTS

SKI TOTAL. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLATSHARE

SHARPLEY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

NANNIES & DOMESTIC

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

SITUATIONS WANTED

EMPLOYMENT. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

MORNING SUITS

FOR HIRE. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCORD VICTORY World War II. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215. 0115 215 215.

LORD DEAN OF BESWICK

Lord Dean of Beswick, Labour MP for Leeds West, 1974-83, and former leader of Manchester City Council, died on February 26 aged 76. He was born on June 3, 1922.

JOE DEAN was a member of the Manchester School — of engineers, not economists. He learnt his skills and discovered his commitment to socialism in the Gorton locomotive factory before moving in 1959 to the Menzies Vickers turbine works at Trafford Park, then one of the world's great engineering centres. Fred Lee, a future Labour minister, was chief shop steward, and Hugh Scanlon, later to be president of the AUEW, was already a prominent figure in the union. In 1963, these three alumni of Trafford Park were reunited when Lord Dean was introduced into the Upper House. Lord Lee was his sponsor on one side and Lord Scanlon on the other.

Dean was the product of a Manchester slum, one of six children living in a two-up two-down terrace house, and he was educated in classes of never fewer than 50, leaving school at the age of 14. His early luck was to secure an engineering apprenticeship. His later aim was to try to ensure that the slums were removed from Manchester, and as chairman of the city's housing committee he presided over the building of 100,000 homes for Manchester Corporation. He served on the council from 1959 to 1974, and was leader for five years before he was elected to the Commons in the first general election of 1974.

He had been expected to reach Westminster before then, when he stood for selection in the Ardwick constituency. He was the local candidate, with a distinguished municipal and trade union



record, and he had the backing of the engineers' union. But his opponent, Gerald Kaufman, enjoyed the support of the previous MP, Leslie Lever, and came with the backing of a man acquainted with No 10, where he was a member of Harold Wilson's kitchen cabinet and one of the Prime Minister's closest aides. Kaufman is believed to have won by a solitary vote.

Kaufman had crossed the Pennines from his home city of Leeds to secure a Manchester seat, and Dean made the opposite journey to gain selection for Leeds West in 1974. It had been a safe Labour constituency since the war, and as late as 1979 Dean held it by a majority of nearly 10,000. At the next election, however, in 1983, disaster struck. It was worse for Dean than losing the Ardwick nomination, Michael Meadowcroft, a

Liberal who had worked the constituency on a street-by-street plan, won by more than 2,000 votes. It was one of the earliest and most effective examples of the Liberals' community politics. Meadowcroft held the seat for only one Parliament before it returned to Labour, but this marked the end of Dean's Commons career. Michael Foot recognised his work for the party, however, by allocating him one of the few peerages at his disposal.

In the Commons, Dean had proved hard-working, amiable and well-informed, particularly on housing and local government. He was making his way gradually up the Commons ladder: first as parliamentary private secretary to Charles Morris, the Civil Service Minister, and then in the Whips' Office. Although he knew the importance of constituency work, his parliamentary duties meant that he did not have so much time for Leeds West, and his insistence on keeping his home in Manchester did not help. Meadowcroft, with his Bradford degree, his membership of Leeds City Council and his home in the city, saw these weaknesses, and surprised even his own party by casting him out.

This was far from the end of Dean's parliamentary career. Until his final illness, he was a genuine working peer. He went on to the opposition front bench almost immediately after his introduction. At various times he was a Labour spokesman on the environment, housing, energy and sport. His popularity among his colleagues was proved when he was selected as a representative of the Lords in the Shadow Cabinet.

He married in 1945 Helen Hill, one of the first women to hold office in the engineers' union. She died in May last year, but he is survived by two daughters.

ACADEMY 'IMMORTALS': M. COCTEAU'S CHANCES

Paris, March 1. Elections to three vacant seats in the Académie Française are to take place on Thursday, and partly because M. Jean Cocteau is a candidate somewhat out of the ordinary the affair is creating rather more interest than usual.

The elections would have brought the academy to its full strength of 40 members, but the deaths of M. André Chamson and M. Paul Claudel last week have left two other seats vacant, and they will have to be filled by subsequent elections.

The academy is the most illustrious of the five academies which comprise the Institut de France. Founded in 1635 by Cardinal Richelieu, its declared aim was and is "to establish firmly the rules of the language and make French not only elegant but capable of dealing with all arts and sciences".

Although many people would claim that the 40 "immortals", as they are known, are today a great deal less important on the literary scene than they used to be, and that the real mantle of literary arbitration has descended upon the Académie Goncourt, there is still no lack of people who would like

ON THIS DAY

March 2, 1955

The rebellious poet, novelist, playwright and film-maker Jean Cocteau was duly elected to the Académie Française. "I always like to do the unconventional," he explained.

To wear the green and gold uniform and become part of the academician. In theory, anyone can offer himself as a candidate (it could be herself, though no woman has yet done so). The initiative must come from the aspirant, and this lack of any procedure equivalent to that of Rule 11 of the Athenaeum (by which distinguished men are made members in recognition of their achievement) undoubtedly prevents some people who would be obvious choices from being elected; M. Henri de Montherlant is an outstanding example of one who has been

unable to face the prospect of what is, in effect, an electoral campaign.

The majority of the academy consists of writers or men connected with the world of letters, but among members are also generals, ambassadors, and one prize of the Church, Cardinal Grégoire, Archbishop of Le Mans.

As so often happens in France, men distinguished in public life are also distinguished in letters: thus of the academicians M. François-Poncet, the French High Commissioner in Germany, is a prolific author, the Archbishop of Le Mans is an author and historian, M. Gaston, one of the most brilliant advocates in the country, has written several works, and M. Herriot is both an elder statesman and a man of letters.

M. Cocteau is believed to have a good chance and his election would, in the words of a conversation overheard recently in a Paris salon, "brighten the place up a bit". Through the deaths of M. Claudel and M. Chamson he has lost a supporter and an opponent, so that from the point of view of numbers his chances remain unchanged. M. Daniel-Rops, the Roman Catholic author and historian, is also well in the running. If these two should be elected, it will help to bring down the average age of the "immortals". Admiral Lacaze is 95, M. Henri Bordeaux is 85, and the Archbishop of Le Mans and M. Herriot are 83.

One man and the law

Law Page 41



BUSINESS • ARTS • LAW • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Terfel's Falstaff triumph

Arts Page 20



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Market slides as Bank rate cut fears grow

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE STOCK market slumped yesterday as fears of a rate cut by the Bank of England's recent rate-cutting spree and a possible rise in the United States forced investors to the sidelines.

The pound, however, made ground against both the dollar and the euro after new data suggested the UK economy is on course for a soft landing.

January consumer credit growth was stronger than expected, while a rise in the February Purchasing Managers' Index

bolstered hopes that the manufacturing sector is beginning to turn the corner.

Consumer credit showed robust growth of £1.38 billion, broadly in line with the recovery in high street sales that month, compared with £670 million in December.

The UK Purchasing Managers' Index crept higher although it still points to an overall contraction in output for the 11th consecutive month. The improvement was led by the export sector, with export order books recording smallest deterioration since December 1997.

The City interpreted the data as evidence the Bank of England may leave rates on

hold after the conclusion of its monthly monetary policy meeting which begins today. However, the decision is still finely balanced and the MPC may ultimately be swayed by

IN BUSINESS is the new weekly section launched in The Times today to give a voice to small and medium-sized firms with big ambitions. — pages 34, 35

an expected Treasury briefing on the Government's Budget arithmetic.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares

closed down 114.2 points at 6,060.9 in slow trade, having at one stage fallen by as much as 140 points. Investors were also unnerved by strong US economic data which knocked shares on Wall Street and heightened speculation that the Federal Reserve may be forced to raise rates.

US fourth-quarter GDP figures were revised upwards to show an annualised growth rate of 6.1 per cent. The robust data gave a boost to the dollar, which climbed to a fresh record high against the euro, touching \$1.0887. The euro was also affected by weak eurozone industrial production figures published yesterday.

However, analysts have all but ruled out a rate cut when the European Central Bank meets on Thursday after the eurozone measure of M3 money supply unexpectedly jumped from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent in January. A top ECB official also added to the impression that the bank will again leave rates unchanged. Christian Noyer, ECB vice-president, rejected claims that parts of the euro area, and in particular Germany, may be on the verge of deflation.

The pound also regained some ground against the euro, which fell from 68.54p to 68.01p. Against the dollar, the pound climbed from \$1.6013 to \$1.6075.

Business Today

Commentary:
Sir Victor takes a Birching 29
Stock Markets:
Investors run for cover 30
Equity prices:
Thrift trustees 35



Anatole Kaletsky
says Blair should
face up to the
euro's implications
page 31

FTSE 100	6060.9	(-114.2)
FTSE All Share	2794.06	(-41.23)
Nikkei	14221.75	(-145.78)
New York Dow Jones	9282.72	(-13.88)
S&P Composite	1228.79	(-8.54)

10 Year Govt	6.00%	(5.75%)
5 Year Govt	5.50%	(5.25%)
3 Month Interbank	5%	(5.00%)
Life long gilt	115.71	(118.25)

New York	1.6075	(1.6017)
London	1.6078	(1.6020)
Paris	1.4705	(1.4658)
Frankfurt	1.1989	(1.1938)
Yen	162.00	(160.00)
Index	101.8	(100.0)

London	1.0891	(1.1029)
Frankfurt	1.4825	(1.4770)
Yen	119.89	(118.25)
Index	108.2	(107.7)

Tokyo close Yen	118.14
S&P 500	1228.79
Brent 15-day (May)	\$10.95 (\$11.00)
London close	\$285.85 (\$286.85)
* denotes midday trading prices	
Exchange rates	

GEC deal in US marks start of transition

By ADAM JONES

GEC took the first steps in its effort to redefine itself yesterday when it earmarked much of the cash it will receive from the sale of Marconi Electronic Systems to buy Reltec, a US telecommunications group, for \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion).

When it announced the Marconi defence sale to British Aerospace in January, GEC said it would be left with about £2.7 billion in cash to pursue acquisitions, assuming the BAe deal receives regulatory clearance, plus a £4 billion "backstop" loan facility. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the GEC chief executive, had declared that he now wanted to create a business twice the size of "the old GEC".

Yesterday's deal was the first manifestation of this ambition and the market responded favourably, marking up GEC shares from 498p to 516p. Lord Simpson said: "We are moving on to the front foot to grow the business again as quickly as we can."

Reltec, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio, also provides services such as system design and integration for its customers but these activities produce lower profit margins than the hardware sales, a spokeswoman said. Lord Simpson does not anticipate job losses, even though Reltec, which employs 6,600 worldwide, has a small staff presence in the UK and Europe.

Lord Simpson said he expects the sale of the Marconi defence arm to be decided in the UK rather than by the European Commission, under arrangements that allow member states to maintain control over arms industry mergers.

He said the \$2.1 billion price, which includes \$361 million of assumed net debt, looked "quite reasonable" in relation to earnings. Reltec made unaudited earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$139.8 million in 1998. It had sales of \$1,067 billion in 1998, with 86 per cent coming from the US.

GEC is paying \$29.50 per share for Reltec, whose shares had gone as high as \$49.50 last spring. Reltec's share price was hit last September by a warning that third-quarter results would be disappointing. The shares plunged to as low as \$12.625.

Lord Simpson said there had been problems with a Reltec subsidiary in Europe but he said these have since

been ironed out: "Reltec has rationalised it and it is now back on track."

GEC said the deal would be earnings enhancing before goodwill. The rationale of the deal is that GEC transmission products — the telecommunications equivalent of motorway infrastructure — will be sold through Reltec in the US.

Reltec's "access" products — the equivalent of the last mile of road before someone's home — will be sold through GEC in Europe.

The access products are able to make the existing copper wire connections "punch above their weight", behaving more like modern fibreoptic networks in their ability to carry information for Internet use or digital television. There has been an explosion in demand for these services, putting a strain on the US telecoms infrastructure.

Reltec, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio, also provides services such as system design and integration for its customers but these activities produce lower profit margins than the hardware sales, a spokeswoman said. Lord Simpson does not anticipate job losses, even though Reltec, which employs 6,600 worldwide, has a small staff presence in the UK and Europe.

Lord Simpson said he expects the sale of the Marconi defence arm to be decided in the UK rather than by the European Commission, under arrangements that allow member states to maintain control over arms industry mergers.

He said the \$2.1 billion price, which includes \$361 million of assumed net debt, looked "quite reasonable" in relation to earnings. Reltec made unaudited earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$139.8 million in 1998. It had sales of \$1,067 billion in 1998, with 86 per cent coming from the US.

GEC is paying \$29.50 per share for Reltec, whose shares had gone as high as \$49.50 last spring. Reltec's share price was hit last September by a warning that third-quarter results would be disappointing. The shares plunged to as low as \$12.625.

Lord Simpson said there had been problems with a Reltec subsidiary in Europe but he said these have since

been ironed out: "Reltec has rationalised it and it is now back on track."



George Iacobescu says there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops

Wharf float tax-break lure

TAX BREAKS worth hundreds of millions of pounds will underpin the £2.6 billion flotation of Canary Wharf. The Docklands office development, which yesterday confirmed its plans to raise more than £600 million in a new issue, will offer institutions the benefit of historic tax incentives worth some £400 million (Carl Mortished writes).

The 81-acre site east of the City of London still benefits

from 100 per cent capital allowances made available to developers in Enterprise Zones. These mean that Canary Wharf can write off the entire construction cost of a building against its tax bill. The combination of tax breaks and losses in the early 1990s means that Canary Wharf will pay no tax for many years.

The prospect of a company shielded from the land and Revenue is attractive. One expert said: "This will be the first tax-

transparent property vehicle."

The flotation will spark a debate on how property companies should be valued. According to George Iacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with planning permits at Canary Wharf. A letting to Salomon Smith Barney is imminent, believed to be struck at £36 per square foot.

Airborne Canary, page 31

Approaches give 16% lift to First Choice

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES of First Choice Holidays leapt 16 per cent yesterday after the company announced that it had received approaches from more than one potential buyer.

Airtours, its acquisitive rival, and Preussag, the German company that is buying 50.1 per cent of Thomas Cook, are seen as the most likely bidders. Other possible suitors include C&N Touristic, the second-largest German tour operator, and SairGroup, the parent of Swissair.

Airtours, which failed in an attempt to take over First Choice in 1993, recently raised £300 million in fund acquisitions but would probably have to issue new shares to help to fund a new bid.

First Choice was valued at just over £607 million yesterday after its shares rose 24p to 180p. Airtours declined to say whether it had approached First Choice.

Shares in Airtours rose 18p to 495p, while Thomson Travel rose 11p to 180p. Analysts have been expecting to see large-scale consolidation among the travel companies since the industry emerged virtually unscathed from a recent Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation.

Shares in First Choice, which touched a low of 83p last October, rose strongly last week after it was rumoured that a bid of 220p a share, valuing the company at about £750 million, was being prepared.

Preussag, which has been replacing its traditional activities in steel, coal and engineering with travel and leisure, raised DM2 billion (£700 million) to expand its tourism business.

Preussag agreed in December last year to take over Germany's biggest chain of travel

agents, First Reisebüro, and to buy 50.1 per cent of Thomas Cook. It already owns Germany's Hapag-Lloyd.

Analysts said yesterday that a combination of Thomas Cook and First Choice would make sense. Thomas Cook has strong products, while First Choice has the distribution channels. Moreover, Thomas Cook has a stake of 14 per cent in First Choice, a legacy from when it went to the aid of Owners Abroad when it was fighting off the 1993 Airtours bid.

First Choice announced in December that it had trebled its annual pre-tax profits thanks to acquisitions and cost-cutting. It also said that the outlook was good, with summer bookings 14 per cent ahead. Profit before tax for the year to October 31 rose from £15.4 million to £50 million.

The company has been building a network of travel agents, and recently announced plans to have about 700 shops within three years.

SairGroup, as the Swissair holding company was renamed in 1997, bought a 49.9 per cent stake in LTU, a German charter airline and tour operator, last December as part of an attempt to create a new European leisure-travel group. LTU, which is based in Düsseldorf, is the parent of Germany's third-largest tour operator.

Speculation about First Choice has been fuelled by the fact that Phillips & Drew is a major shareholder with 13 per cent. The fund manager has recently brokered numerous takeovers for its poorer-performing stocks.

First Choice's management would share £4.3 million if they accepted a bid at the 180p level. Peter Long, managing director, would make £1.84 million.

Mirror rejects Trinity SAB's muted opening

TRINITY, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, was last night considering its options after having its cash and shares offer for Mirror Group rejected out of hand (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Mirror Group told the Stock Exchange that it had rejected an indicative offer for the company, valuing it at about £1 billion, made by Trinity on Friday.

Trinity had offered 0.35 new Trinity shares and 40p in cash for each Mirror share valuing the deal at 210p. The value moved up to 215p a share by the end of the day as Trinity rose 9p to 495p after it announced a 13.4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, before exceptional losses of £83.8 million.

Mirror Group said Trinity was offering "an inadequate premium for a change of control". Expressing surprise at the speed

of the rebuff, Philip Graf, Trinity chief executive, said: "It remains our intention that this should be done on a friendly basis."

Trinity's rivals for Mirror Group, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, is likely to apply this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for formal permission to acquire Mirror.

Commentary, page 29

SHARES of South African Breweries, the latest migrant to the London Stock Exchange from the Cape, jumped to an immediate 19p premium yesterday as conditional dealings began (Robert Cole writes).

Stock was placed at 428p and closed the day at 447p, up 4.4 per cent. At one point the shares were changing hands at 460p.

Analysts said the stock had received only a "lukewarm" reception. SAB raised £150 million placing new shares in the company, but held back on its option to issue an additional £50 million of stock. An additional £150 million of shares being sold by pre-existing investors, however, were also placed.

Seventy per cent of the shares were bought by UK institutions. Another 20 per cent were sold to American investment houses with the remain-

der going to the Continent and Japan. At 447p SAB, which is already listed in Johannesburg, is worth £3.4 billion and is in line to join the FTSE 100 index of leading UK quoted companies later this month.

Unconditional dealings, following approval of the shares from the London Stock Exchange, begin next Monday.

Tempus, page 30

Non.

Oui.

4.99% (5.3% APR) fixed to 31/3/2002.

John Charcol, to European - style UK mortgage rates.

JOHN CHARCOL

0800 71 81 91

Talk about a better mortgage.

Based on a £50,000 repayment mortgage on a property valued at £97,000 repaid over 25 years. 300 gross monthly repayments of £295.34 at 4.99% (5.3% APR). Total amount payable gross £89,348.50 calculated to include solicitor's fees of £117.50, arrangement fee of £295, John Charcol reservation fee of £49, valuation fee of £185 and deeds/vacation/production fees of £100. The APR is 5.3%, and is typical for a repayment loan over 25 years and assumes that on expiry of the fixed rate, the lender's Standard Variable Rate will remain at 4.99% (5.3% APR) for the remainder of the loan. In practice, this rate may differ from that assumed. After the fixed rate has expired, APR may vary. Mortgage secured on property. Insurance may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. Limited funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchisees (who are Appointed Representatives) any of which you may be connected to on the above number. John Charcol Ltd and The John Charcol Partnership Ltd have issued and approved this advertisement and is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The PIA does not regulate mortgage business. Written quotations available on request. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the amount borrowed may be charged. Rates correct at time of going to press. To maintain the quality of our service, calls to this number may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes. Head Office: 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DD. Tel: 0171 611 7000

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

هنا من الأمل

Hays

Expansion in Europe

Results for the 6 months ended 31 December 1998

Results for the second half of 1998 demonstrated the strength of the Group's strategic approach in all economic conditions, with our three main businesses achieving healthy organic growth as well as benefiting from carefully selected acquisitions in the UK and on the Continent of Europe.

Profit before tax and goodwill amortisation rose by 20% to £110.4 million, and interim earnings per share by 19% to 9.2p. In line with Hays' policy of consistently growing shareholder returns, the interim dividend will be increased to 2.0p per Ordinary Share.

Important Developments

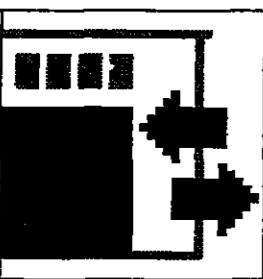
We continue to benefit from the trend towards the contracting-out of major business functions in the areas of distribution, commercial operations and personnel.

In addition, we are successfully expanding all three businesses' operations into the Continent of Europe through the careful acquisition and development of companies with compatible management structures and business philosophies.

Prospects

All three core activities remain well placed for growth. Planned future developments include new outsourcing contracts and further acquisitions to build on our increasing progress throughout Europe.

DISTRIBUTION



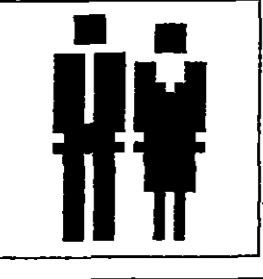
Operating profits were ahead of second half 1997 by 6% to £38.4 million. Our presence in all the major European countries is a great advantage as both retailers and manufacturers reorganise their distribution across Europe.

COMMERCIAL



Operating profit rose by 21% to £34.7 million. Mail Services is now a leader in pre-9 am deliveries in France. Following recent acquisitions Hays now offers a broad range of Business Process Support Services.

PERSONNEL



Operating profit up 30% to £41.6 million. Strong growth continues particularly for temporary placements. Hays Personnel is now well established in France in the specialist sectors of IT, Banking and Insurance staff.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1998

	1997	1998	%Change
Profit before tax*	£92.2m	£110.4m	+20
Earnings per ordinary share*	7.7p	9.2p	+19
Net dividend per share	1.7p	2.0p	+16

* Before exceptional items and amortisation of goodwill

To receive a copy of the Interim Report for 1998, please write to David Beckley.

Hays plc, Hays House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5HJ.

The Directors of Hays plc accept responsibility for the contents of this advertisement which has been approved for the purposes of section 27 (1) of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Deloitte & Touche, Half Moon, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3JF. A firm authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

Hays

THE BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP

SLPH profits halved by bad weather spell

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL insurance profits at Sun Life and Provincial Holdings (SLPH), the UK insurer controlled by AXA of France, have halved as a result of bad-weather claims in 1998.

SLPH launched a £3.4 billion bid for Guardian Royal Exchange in January and said yesterday a strategic review would settle the fate of two of GRE's business units.

Rumours had been circulating that Mark Wood, group chief executive of SLPH, was preparing to sell GRE's Irish and UK Life operations once the deal had gone through. He said yesterday, however,

that it was "too early to say" what would happen to the businesses until the review had been completed in four to five months' time.

SLPH unveiled a 14 per cent rise in full-year operating profits in 1998 to £247.1 million (1997 pro-forma: £216.5 million).

Weather-related claims of £14.5 million affected SLPH's general insurance operating profit before tax which fell to £26 million (1997: pro-forma £52.2 million).

The insurer's results were boosted, however, by a 21 per cent rise in life and pensions operating profit to £210.3

million (1997 pro-forma £173.3 million).

The group said the 1997 merger between AXA Equity and Law and Sun Life had been completed within 18 months, six months ahead of schedule, and estimated savings had increased to £47 million (originally £37 million).

Asset management operating profit before tax increased 24 per cent to £29.1 million (1997: £23.4 million) and the full-year dividend is up 15 per cent to 13.5p per share.

SLPH said the proposed merger with GRE would generate £55 million of savings per year, up from the

previous estimate of £50 million.

The group has spent £6 million promoting the AXA brand but Mr Wood said he intended to keep the Sun Life brand and the PPP healthcare brand for the short term.

If the proposed deal with GRE goes ahead, the group would derive 61 per cent of premiums from UK life business, 10 per cent from health, 5 per cent from Ireland, 9 per cent from AXA's general insurance brands and 15 per cent from GRE's general insurance businesses.

Tempus, page 30

New chief for Close Brothers

Sir David Scholey, the former SG Warburg chairman, is to become chairman of Close Brothers, the independent merchant bank. He succeeds Michael Morley, who is retiring early because of ill health.

Yesterday Close reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £32.2 million from £36.75 million for the six months to January 31. Rod Kent, chief executive, attributed the fall in profits to an exceptional first-half last year.

Earnings were 18.35p a share (20.15p), but the interim dividend rises to 5.3p a share (4.8p). The shares fell 32p to 632p. City Diary, page 31

McBride departure

McBride, the manufacturer of supermarkets' own-label household products and washing powders, is parting company with Johan Vandepitte, one of its two managing directors, after a difficult half-year in which its sales were hit by the success of Persil tablets. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £248.4 million in the six months to December 31 helped by acquisitions. Pre-tax profits fell to £8.6 million (£14.1 million). Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 2.9p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p.

Shares dip at Ocean

Ocean Group, the transport and environmental services company, yesterday posted its fifth consecutive year of earnings growth but saw its shares fall 38p to 804p after it said the outlook was challenging and it failed to provide any fresh acquisition news. Underlying pre-tax profit was 13.1 per cent ahead at £83.1 million, for the year ending December 31. Underlying earnings per share rose to 17.95p (16.60p) and turnover was £1.33 billion (£1.13 billion).

Break talks to rival

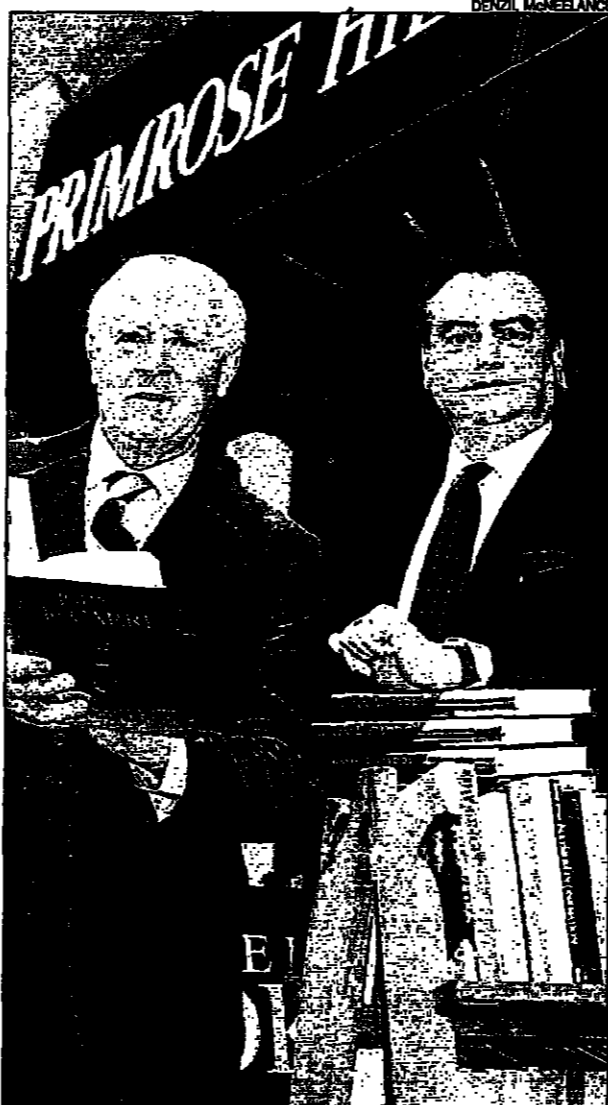
Break for the Border, the bar and restaurant operator, and Po Na Na Group, its Oxford-listed rival, are the latest leisure sector minnows to join the consolidation bandwagon. The companies issued a joint statement yesterday confirming that they were "in discussions which may or may not lead to a merger". The enlarged group would have a market capitalisation of about £35 million. A deal is expected within four weeks.

Boost for NTL

NTL, one of Britain's big three cable companies, yesterday completed a £500 million deal that will allow it to supply ITV and Channel 4 via its analogue service until at least 2012. The deal extends NTL's current contracts by ten years. The deal aims to secure transmission of the two channels until the Government switches off analogue signals.

Chesterfield sales

Chesterfield Properties, the company that is liquidating its estate and returning cash to shareholders, began the process yesterday with the sale of 16 sites, raising £100 million.



Open book: John Le Carré, left, with Tim Hely Hutchinson

Hodder makes big advance

By RAYMOND SNODDY

A RECORD pre-tax profit of £9.4 million left Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of Hodder Headline, hoping that the stock market would re-value the publishing company.

The 15 per cent growth in profit for the year to December 31 was achieved on a 10 per cent rise in sales to £102.5 million. Hodder ended the year with net cash of £1.7 million, compared with borrowings of £2.5 million a year earlier.

"We can't find publishing companies to buy with sales growth of 10 per cent plus and net cash. They don't exist and yet we are at a discount to the market," Mr Hely Hutchinson said. The shares rose 25p to 260p yesterday.

Hodder lifted sales with best-sellers such as Dickie Bird's autobiography, Tom Clancy's *Net Force* and *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Sales in the first seven weeks of this year are 11 per cent ahead of last year and 18 titles have so far appeared on national bestseller lists, including John Le Carré's *Single & Single* and Josephine Cox's *The Guilted Cage*.

Earnings rose 13 per cent to 17.9p a share. A 5.55p final dividend lifts the total to 8p from 7.2p last time.

£100m mutuality boost

By CAROLINE MERRELL

YORKSHIRE Building Society is to spend £100 million this year on demonstrating the benefits of mutuality to its members through enhanced savings rates and lower mortgage repayments.

It is also introducing a rule that will make it harder for a pro-conversion resolution to be passed by members: any at-

tempt to convert the society by carpetbaggers will henceforth need 75 per cent support from members rather than just a straight majority.

Yorkshire yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £68.6 million, on the back of net mortgage lending virtually unchanged at £908 million.

Revealing the plans to divert another £100 million to members, David Anderson, Yorkshire's chief executive, said: "We have given out mutual benefits worth £180 million over three years."

It was announced that as of yesterday the society's mortgage rate moved down to 6.6 per cent.

EU approval for Zeneca merger

By PAUL DURMAN

THE European Commission yesterday gave its blessing to the £45 billion merger of Zeneca and Astra after the companies agreed to address concerns over their combined market share in the treatment of hypertension and in anaesthetics.

Zeneca will have to continue financing the commercialisation of the local anaesthetic developed by Chiroscience as a condition of securing EU approval for the merger.

Astra's dominance of the local anaesthetic market in Europe has meant Zeneca has had to agree to hand back rights to the Chiroscience drug, which it acquired only last year. Zeneca has also given an undertaking to appoint an independent distributor for Tenormin, its beta-

blocker heart drug, in Sweden and Norway.

Zeneca said the undertaking needed to secure clearance would not have a material impact on its business. The merger still needs the backing of Astra's shareholders and American competition authorities.

Chiroscience needs to find a new marketing partner for the anaesthetic it calls Chirocaine. With Zeneca's support, John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, still hopes the drug can be launched later this year.

Zeneca has agreed to hold on to its 3 per cent stake in Chiroscience for an undisclosed period beyond June, the end of the previously agreed lock-up period. Chiroscience shares rose 8p to 234p.

Pearson pushes ahead with German paper

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

PEARSON, the media and information group that owns the *Financial Times*, announced yesterday that it is pushing ahead with the £60 million launch of a new business daily in Germany in a joint venture with Gruner + Jahr.

Neither the title nor the launch date of the paper are being announced at the moment but the new daily will be printed on FT-style pink paper and will aim to increase the business newspaper market in Germany.

Both Pearson and Gruner +

Jahr, one of Germany's largest magazine and newspaper publishers, are each expected to invest £30 million in the venture over the next three years. The aim is to reach an operational breakeven point by then.

Stephen Hill, chief executive of Pearson's FT group and chairman of the new venture, said: "We can build a profitable and successful German language business newspaper in what is the world's third-largest economy."

The paper will be edited by

Andrew Gowers, until recently deputy editor of the *FT* and a German speaker. Although the new paper will carry some content from the *Financial Times*, it will be written, designed and published specifically for the German market. An associated website will also be launched.

The FT Group has already had success in business publishing in Europe through acquisition. The main opposition in Germany will be *Handelsblatt*, the country's established business daily.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

House price decline stirs downturn fear

HOUSE prices fell for the third time in four months, stoking fears of a downturn in the housing market. The Halifax monthly survey estimates house prices fell by 0.5 per cent in February, bringing the annual rate of house price inflation down to 3.6 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent in January. The sharp decline surprised the lender. Halifax gave warning that any further removal of mortgage interest tax relief or an increase in stamp duty in next week's Budget would harm consumer confidence even further.

Martin Ellis, economist at the Halifax, said: "It's a sharper downturn than we expected. But we think it is a temporary setback." The Halifax is still predicting the annual rate of house price inflation will be 4 per cent in the final quarter of 1999. The average price paid for a house was £73,004 last month compared with £73,406 in January.

Redrow sales ahead

REDROW, the housebuilder, underpinned the recent rally in its share price yesterday by saying that it is selling 4 to 5 per cent more homes in 1999 than in 1998. Redrow shares have bounced back from 125p in September, to 173p yesterday. Steve Morgan, chairman, said demand for houses should continue to be stable. Redrow announced a 13 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £26.1 million. Sales were up 8 per cent to £161.1 million. Earnings per share were 8.6p (7.3p). A dividend of 1.5p (1.35p) will be paid.

Computerland tumbles

COMPUTERLAND felt the wrath of London's sensitive IT sector yesterday after a mild profits warning sent its shares down 37 per cent. Graham Gilbert, its founder and managing director, said orders for desktop computers were running about £2 million below the £15 million target for the half year. This comes two months after he told his sales staff to chase more profitable long-term service contracts instead of low-margin computer sales. The shares closed 59p cheaper at 100p against a high last July of 360p.

Finelist lifts sales

AN INCREASED focus on organic growth and a series of contracts with companies such as BT lifted interim sales at Finelist, Britain's largest car parts distributor, 39 per cent to £243.7 million. Pre-tax profit, however, for the six months to December 31, fell to £13.9 million from £14.4 million. Chris Swan, chairman, said: "The second half provides us with the chance to increase our hold on the UK market." The proposed interim dividend is up 3.7 per cent to 2.8p.

Aggreko powers ahead

AGGREKO, the power equipment hire group, promised to continue with its ambitious expansion plans, especially in the US, after beating analysts' forecasts for 1998 with pre-tax profits up 18.4 per cent to £39.3 million in the year to December 31. Turnover at the company, which was spun out of Christian Salvesen in 1997, rose to £178.9 million (£163.3 million) while the total dividend rose 9.3 per cent to 4.12p (3.77p).

Morse signals intent

MORSE GROUP, the computer distributor and services group, said it could be valued at as much as £367 million when it comes to the stock market at the end of the month. Morse said yesterday that its shares are to be priced in a range of 250p to 300p. At the middle of the range, the company will raise about £55 million to fund a capital reorganisation and pay off debt and to invest in overseas operations.

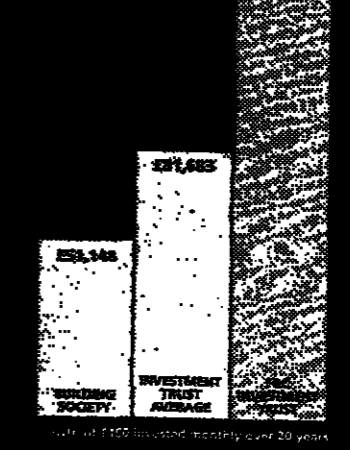
EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.69	2.61	206.76	199.22
Austria Sch.	21.22	19.56	0.889	0.810
Belgium Fr.	62.46	57.50	3.429	3.134
Canada \$	2.556	2.368	3.20	2.96
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8947	0.8222	13.22	12.38
Denmark Kr.	11.51	10.62	307.12	289.09
Egypt	5.89	5.06	10.57	9.61
Finland Mk.	5.29	5.54	259.97	237.18
France Fr.	10.11	9.23	14.01	12.91
Germany Dm.	3.034	2.732	2.494	2.276
Greece Dr.	499	460	579877	541234
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.08	1.713	1.570
India	129	108		
Indonesia	17829	12829		
Ireland P.	1.216	1.126		
Israel Sh.	6.88	6.20		
Italy Lira	3020	2783		

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Why invest in our savings plan?

Don't ask an economist, ask an historian.



Take a look over the past 20 years and you'll see the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust has been one of the most successful performers. Turn back the clock 131 years, and you'll see why. That's when we invented the investment trust.

This vast experience allows us to consistently out-perform many of our rivals. It's also the reason why knowledgeable investors make our Private Investor Plan their first choice.

The Plan lets you save with regular monthly contributions or the occasional lump sum. What's more, you'll find our charges are amongst the lowest.

To find out more, order our free brochure by calling 0181 880 8120.

Do it now and you could find your future benefiting from our history.

Foreign & Colonial
Those in the know, choose us.

Ref: F0728

The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures sourced Standard & Poor's Microcap; 31.12.98-31.12.98. Investment trust figures based: mid-market prices, net income reinvested, Inc. Historical 5.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty). Building Society figure based: highest net rate available (UK Savings £25,000+ Account) total return, net income reinvested. A building society account is not exposed to stockmarket risks of fluctuating capital values. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by HMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the managers of the investment trusts.

Sir Victor Blank's term as a newspaper proprietor looks likely to be short lived. The friendly merger talks the Mirror Group chairman had been having with Trinity have turned distinctly frosty. Instead of the amicable coming together which would have seen Sir Victor emerge as chairman of the enlarged group, the bid that has now been slapped on the table indicates that the services of the ingenious press baron would no longer be required. We are talking hostile here.

Perhaps this should not be surprising. It would have taken a degree of magnanimity for the Trinity chairman, Peter Birch, to have ceded the role to Sir Victor. After all, the Mirror Group chairman, in his role as deputy chairman of GUS, recently deprived Mr Birch of a future as chairman of Argos. Had GUS not succeeded in its hard-fought takeover of the catalogue retailer, Mr Birch would now be chairman. Instead, he has had to suffer the prolonged accusations from GUS chairman Lord Wolfson that, as a member of the Argos board at the time, Mr Birch did not adhere to the highest of City standards. While the Takeover Panel has largely dismissed the GUS carping, it can have done little to make Mr Birch feel well-disposed towards the Wolfson team.

He has easily replaced the lost Argos job with the chairmanship of Britain's biggest property company, Land Securities, but that is no reason why Mr Birch should feel inclined to hand over his role

as a media magnate.

Orchestrating genuine mergers requires a degree of altruism which does not always come easily. When Peter Birch was chief executive of the Abbey National, doing a remarkable job of transforming the building society, National Westminster suggested that together their organisations could make music. Despite the clear potential, the discussions were not prolonged.

Those synergies undoubtedly exist in putting Trinity and Mirror together to create the country's largest media group. The sheer scale means that the deal must now be put on ice while the MMC scrutinises the pairing. That will take many months, although any analyst could explain that the only problem areas are Scotland and Northern Ireland. If Trinity and Mirror had already agreed a friendly merger, they could already be presenting the MMC with the solution to those minor difficulties. Instead, there will be months of uncertainty, merely delaying the start of the real auction as RIM and Trinity fight over the prize.

In the meantime, Sir Victor Blank has to try to run Mirror as if it has a long-term independent future. That means saying goodbye to News Bunny and topless

darts: the buyers are already lining up for Live TV.

Sir Victor knows his task is to win the best price for Mirror. That is certainly closer to 230p than Trinity's sighting shot. But, given that the rival RIM is offering cash and major shareholders PDM have indicated their preference for some paper, a touch of friendliness, coupled with a little more generosity, might have given Trinity a winning edge.

Long-term this is not the answer

The insurance industry had hoped that the Royal Commission into long-term care was about to deliver a bonanza. The insurers' own efforts to sell policies that will pay out for nursing home fees have proved pitifully ineffective: this looks suspiciously like one area of financial services where misleading has not occurred. Yet demographics and the country's ability to meet the cost of an in-

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

creasingly aged population pointed to a growing need for just this sort of insurance policy.

The Royal Commission does not think so. While a couple of its members voiced concern about the costs that the commission's proposals might be laying in store for future generations, the majority have been more concerned to ensure equity. This is fine in principle. It is clearly wrong that the prudent individual should be penalised for having amassed capital that can be used to fund nursing care in old age while the prodigal will be provided with the same level of care. But the bills have to be taken into account, and the bills will undoubtedly rise.

The Government now has to decide whether to act on the commission's report or put it on a shelf and concentrate on more palatable issues. It should do neither. The failing in the exercise was to try to isolate long-term care from the whole process of growing old. The subject needs to be viewed within the context of

the whole pensions debate which the Government once seemed so keen to initiate but which has degenerated into the sort of conversation in which no one listens to the others.

There is huge confusion now about the Government's plans on pensions. This is not just among those who should be paying for them but also among those who should be providing them. Instead of simplifying the system, the proposals for stakeholder pensions have been added as an extra tier on a structure already threatening to topple.

Yet, as the average age extends and retirement ages head in the opposite direction, the importance of ensuring that individuals make adequate provision for old age has never been greater. It should not be impossible for that provision to take account of the prospect that, at some stage during that prolonged retirement, they may need to pay for nursing care. The failure of insurers to sell their long-term care policies

owes as much to the reluctance of consumers to contemplate needing such treatment as it does to the expense.

Truly radical thinking could come up with a package which ensured that savers looked to a future which was realistic rather than rosy.

Blair's euro effect lasts just six days

Recession, what recession? Japan aside, the other three main currency blocs are suddenly all rethinking their drive of cutting interest rates to keep Eastern infections at bay.

In America, wage and activity indicators are buoyant. The Federal Reserve's next move could be upwards, some analysts now speculate, as Alan Greenspan seeks to continue his virtuoso performance of keeping economic growth on the tightrope between inflation and recession.

On the Continent, Germany may howl with exaggerated pain like a footballer appealing for a penalty. But referee Wim Duisenberg and his assistants at the European Central Bank say that the rest of enrolment does not need a cut. Growth is healthy from Maastricht to Madrid and from

Milan to Dublin, so Germany will have to do without.

In Britain, where growth is still weakest and rates highest, job vacancies, new house reservations and even export orders are perking up. So the headlong cuts in base rates since November may well pause to let the world absorb Gordon Brown's Budget.

This is not convergence, but there is a short-term outbreak of policy coincidence. Why, then, has it caused sterling to rise against the dollar and therefore also against the euro?

Though dull, the UK economy is under more certain control than either of the other two. Denis Healey, New Europe's old bruiser, argues that the euro might not exist in five years time. Even the euro's biggest fan could not say that about sterling.

Fly more flags

THIRTY years to the day that Concorde had its first test flight, 13 of the measly 14 aircraft bought by the flag carriers of Britain and France are still profitably whisking financiers and celebrities across the Atlantic at speeds of which modern aircraft can only dream. The Anglo-French operation has long been superseded by Airbus. Flag carriers of the shareholder countries will still be expected to back the planned A300 super jumbo with orders to get it off the ground. Along with Air France, presumably Virgin Airways is already preparing to be a launch operator.

Burmah to repay £280m to investors

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BURMAH CASTROL, the lubricants and chemicals group, surprised the market yesterday with plans for a £280 million capital repayment. The promised payout of 131p per share by way of a capital reconstruction boosted Burmah's flagging share price by 5 per cent to 859p.

The chemicals company, which owns the Castrol GTX motor oil brand, has been suffering from weak demand worldwide, in particular from economies in the Far East, such as Thailand, where Castrol had particular success in gaining market share. Asia Pacific accounts for a third of Burmah's business and its shares have almost halved in value from a peak of £13 last June.

Tim Stevenson, Burmah's chief executive, said yesterday that he was more optimistic than a year ago with trading conditions in Asia Pacific showing some signs of improvement.

Burmah yesterday reported flat pre-tax profits of £246 million, after excluding currency losses. Losses from currency fluctuations reduced operating

profit by £25 million last year, reducing reported pre-tax profit by 7 per cent.

Burmah is returning capital by way of a share split into ordinary shares and capital shares. Subject to Court approval, the latter will be cancelled by way of a cash payment or issue of loan notes. As a result, the ordinary shares in issue will be reduced by 16.7 per cent, boosting the company's earnings per share.

Mr Stevenson promised yesterday that Burmah would continue to restructure and indicated that acquisitions and disposals would focus the business further. A £110 million three-year reorganisation programme is under way and is expected to generate savings of £30 million per year by the end of the period.

Castrol's profit saw a decline from £211 million to £187 million after the currency hit. However, the company said it had gained market share despite intense competition and the market declines in the Far East. Chemicals profits were down £1 million to £75 million during the year.

Gucci to confront LVMH

By FRASER NELSON

GUCCI has called a showdown with rival LVMH on March 23, when it will hold a vote on whether it should accept a board director nominated by Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman.

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, is urging shareholders to reject M. Arnault's nominee as "the eyes and ears" of the rival fashion houses in the LVMH stable.

Although M. Arnault had bought 34.4 per cent of the shares, Gucci has created an equal amount of shares that will be controlled by a trust — neutralising any sway he may have in the voting.

It is expected that Umberto Guidi, M. Arnault's nominated director, will be rejected unless LVMH promises not to buy any more Gucci shares and gives assurances that Signor Guidi will leave the room when its business secrets are discussed. LVMH is still trying to sue Gucci for issuing the new shares.

Aegis aims for top spot in US

By RAYMOND SNOODY

AEGIS, the advertising and marketing group, has set itself the target of being the number one operator in its field in the US within five years.

Crispin Davis, chief executive, said that Aegis, which yesterday announced a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £51.1 million for the year to December, plans to expand in the US in areas such as the Internet, research, direct response marketing and sponsorship.

The company said it has as much as £100 million to spend on acquisitions. "The US represents 40 per cent of the world advertising market. We have made a very encouraging start there and the upside is enormous," Mr Davis said. In January, Aegis won a \$280 million (£170 million) contract from Pfizer, its biggest yet, and now hopes to topple the leaders of the fragmented US market, Y&R and McCann Erickson.

The full-year dividend rises 21 per cent to 0.35p.

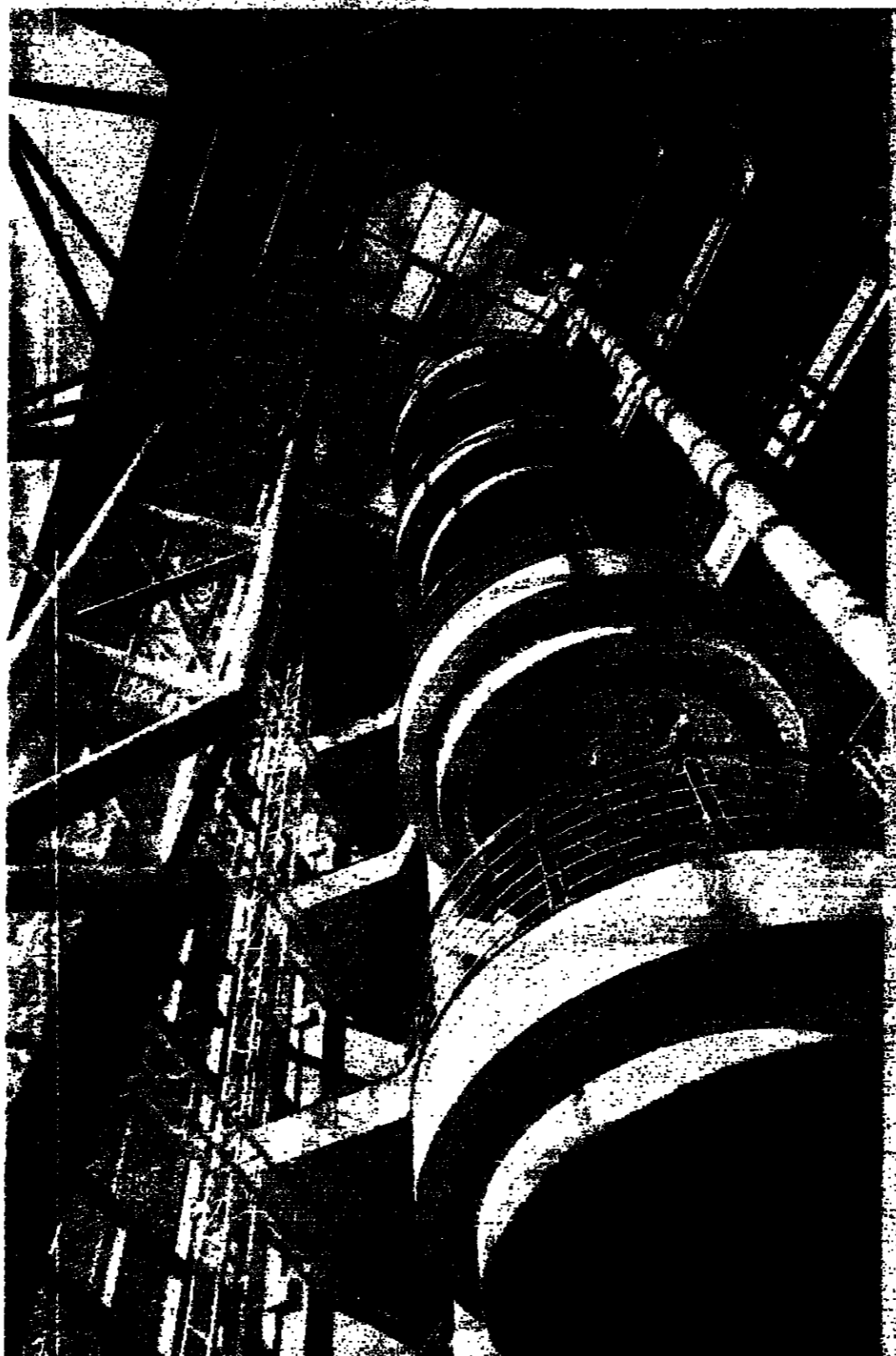
Shield improves its offer for Axis

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS has been forced to improve its merger offer for Axis Biochemicals by 25 per cent to secure the backing of the Norwegian company's largest shareholders (Paul Durman writes).

Tharald Brovig, an influential Norwegian investor, and Mosvold-Parsund, a venture capital firm, agreed to back the merger only after David Evans, Shield's managing director, offered to sweeten the terms. The £180 million deal is

intended to create a world leader in the field of innovative heart disease tests. Shield will now have to offer 1.25 new shares for every Axis share.

Embarrassingly, the original deal was strongly backed by the Axis management headed by Svein Lien, who is to become joint managing director of the merged company. Mr Lien said the deal had to be announced in January before it was "exactly clear... what our shareholders [were] willing to accept".



Peterborough.
Ahead of its time
since 1750 BC.

Peterborough is a wonderful contrast

of 4,000 years of heritage and a tomorrow's world outlook.

The historic Norman Cathedral sits at the heart of a fast-growing new city that has attracted companies like Thomas Cook, Pearl Assurance, Barclays Trust, Cable & Wireless and Freemans Mail Order.

The city which started as a Bronze Age settlement now benefits from full digital fibre optic cable, microwave links and satellite communications systems.

Yesterday and tomorrow are just as evident in the homes available; fine stone-built period properties or new modern homes on attractively laid-out leafy estates.

No wonder both businesses and people prosper here.

Find out how locating in Peterborough can benefit your business.

talk to CNT on 01733 555825



Locations made for business success
www.cnt.org.uk

Other CNT locations made for business success: Baskin Bradwell Central Lancashire Corby Crawley Harlow Hatfield Hemel Hempstead Milton Keynes Northampton Radstock Runcorn Sharncliffe Sowerby Telford Warrington Watlington Walsby Garden City

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investors run for cover over US rate worries

WHILE interest rates this side of the Atlantic may yet still be coming down, in the US there is a real danger that the next move will be up.

Stronger than expected US economic data and evidence of a slowdown in the computer industry have raised fears about a tightening of fiscal policy by the Federal Reserve.

This sent investors scurrying for cover in London where questions were again being asked about the high level of the market in the face of further falls in corporate profitability among blue chips.

As trading drew to a close in the Square Mile, the Dow Jones industrial average was nursing a fall of more than 80 points. The FTSE 100 index did manage to close above its low point of the day, but was still down 14.42 at 6,060.9 by the close. Trading conditions proved thinner than of late with 916 million shares registered. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 0.1 to 5,258.4.

Mark & Spencer retreated 8 1/2p to 411 1/2p as WestLB Panmure, the broker, told clients to "sell". It values the shares at 300p. Several directors unloaded stock yesterday. Christopher Littmoden has sold 41,079 at 416p reducing his holding to 9,369 shares, while Paul Smith has sold 16,292 shares at 414p and now holds 2,000 shares.

The start of unofficial trading in South African Breweries saw the issue lose much of its sparkle after a placing at the 420p level. The price touched 460p before slipping to close 19p better at 447p in thin trading that saw less than a million shares change hands.

First Choice roared up 23p to 183 1/2p after confirming reports in the *Times* last week, that it has received bid approaches. At these levels, the package tour operator is capitalised at £617 million. The two operators have been undergoing a period of consolidation. Airtrous, which is seen as a potential suitor for First Choice, rose 18 1/2p to 495p and Thomson Travel 11 1/2p to 180 1/2p in sympathy.

Several Trent was wanted with a rise of 8p to 89 1/2p after HSBC Securities, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "buy". A broker's recommendation enabled RMC Group to resist the downward pull with a rise of 29 1/2p to 70 1/2p. JP Morgan, the US investment



Nice work if you can get it: Ian Blackburn, chief executive, saw shares of Perkins Foods edge up higher to 112 1/2p

bank, has been telling clients that the shares are undervalued and should be bought.

A revival of speculative buying boosted SIG Group 7 1/2p to 175 1/2p. Followers of the stock claim CRH, the Irish building materials group, may be looking to bid for SIG.

Elsewhere in the building materials industry, Hanson hardened 5 1/2p to 515 1/2p as Salomon

Smith Barney, the US securities house, raised its target for the shares from 520p to 570p.

ARM Holdings ran into profit taking ending the session 50p lower at £23.42n. Douglas Dunn, a director, has bought 2,400 shares for £19.25. He will be hoping the price can maintain its recent momentum that has seen it come up from the 750p level since

May. Last year ARM raised profits from £3.67 million to £5 million and enjoys a rating of about 175 times earnings.

Linux Printing Technologies shaded 1p to 167 1/2p after the sale of shares by a number of directors. Hillary Weinberg has sold 125,000 at 172p and now owns 688,742. Michael Keeling 100,000 at 172p leaving him with 786,908, while Paul Davis has disposed of 50,000 at 172p reducing his holding to 316,250.

Burtonwood Brewery held steady at 153 1/2p with Richard Gilchrist, a director, picking up 7,806 shares at 155p. He now owns 1.89 million shares.

Eurocom Publications slipped 12 1/2p to £15.62n. Richard Jell, a director, has bought 5,000 shares paying £13.30.

SFT Group advanced 5p to 175 1/2p as the chief executive, Alan Jones, has sold 100,000 shares at 180 1/2p, all square at 180 1/2p, will succeed. Word is Bass, down 14p to 85 1/2p, was pondering a bid of its own, but has pulled out.

Perkins Foods edged up higher to 112 1/2p after wading in with first results showing pre-tax profits almost doubled at £5.1 million. The company said trading in the first few weeks of the current year was in line with expectations.

AIM-listed Petra Diamonds was briefly suspended at 60p. The group, as lead member of the Nabera Mining consortium, has been awarded the management contract for the South African government-owned Alexkor diamond-mining business.

Alliance Resources was also suspended at 6p due to the delay in publication of its interim results following the acquisition of Difco in November. They are now due to be published on March 12.

GILT-EDGED: Stronger than expected consumer credit numbers left bonds nursing falls and may have limited the scope for another cut in interest rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 8 1/2p down at £116.14, while among conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2008 lost 9 1/2p to £132.69.

NEW YORK: US shares drifted lower on the back of concern about interest rates and weakness in the technology sector. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.86 points to 9,292.72.

Lyonnais has cut J Sainsbury, 1p better at 361 1/2p, from "buy" to "add" and, instead, has turned its attention to rival Sainsbury, up 5 1/2p to 380p, which it rates a "buy".

WestLB Panmure, the broker, has cut its rating for Safeway, down 6p to 262 1/2p, and Tesco from "buy" to "hold".

Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, has gone one step further and told clients to switch out of the food retailers altogether and into general retailers.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

the latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155 1/2p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8 1/2p to 168 1/2p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit

Time for Blair to face up to the euro's implications

New Europe offers the chance for an honest debate about Britain and the single currency

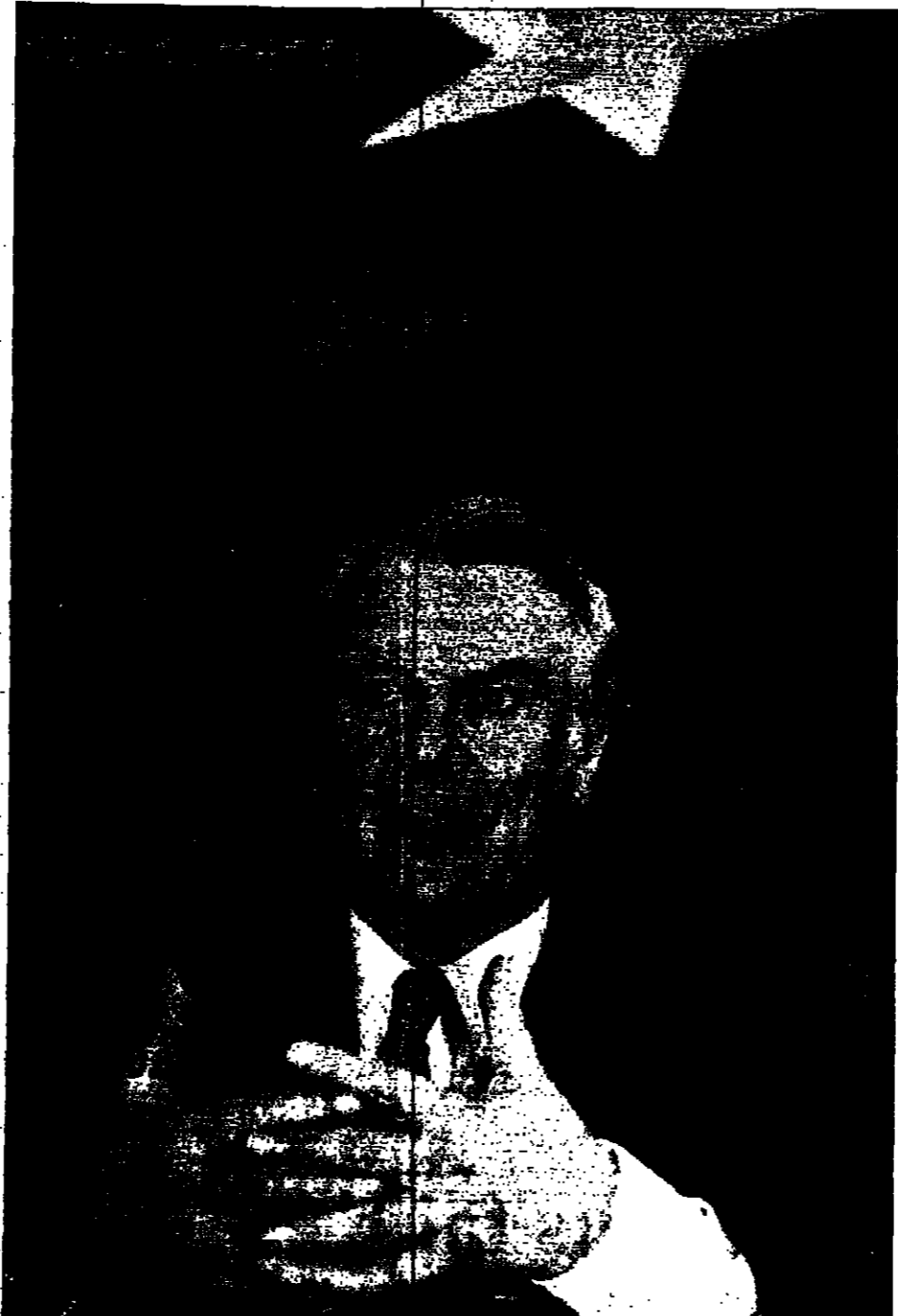
Looking back over the columns that I have written on this page since the new year, I was rather concerned to discover last week that six out of the eight headlines included the word "Europe". I was therefore determined to move on to another subject this week.

But writing for a daily newspaper means responding to the flow of daily events — and yesterday there was an event in London that I could not ignore. This was the launch of a new campaigning and research organisation called New Europe. The purpose of New Europe is to offer a positive, economically coherent and politically open-minded argument for Britain to remain a fully committed member of the European Union, while retaining its monetary and economic independence as a non-member of the eurozone. I naturally welcome the creation of New Europe, since its analysis coincides exactly with the one that I have presented since I joined *The Times* nearly nine years ago. But I must confess to two even more selfish reasons for inflicting on the column's readers the seventh article on Europe in nine weeks.

My first selfish reason is simply that I was involved with Lord Owen and others in hatching the idea of New Europe. I had long been convinced that a group of respected business, academic, economic and other public personalities with impeccably pro-European credentials could be assembled to present a persuasive case against Britain joining the single currency and, just as importantly, to demonstrate that opposition to joining EMU could be based on economic realism and geopolitical rationalism, not on tub-thumping nationalism, imperial nostalgia or right-wing xenophobia.

My second selfish reason for writing about the launch of New Europe is that it gives me an easy chance to respond to the many letters and e-mails that I have received of late, all with the same two demands: declare, once and for all, whether you are for or against Europe; and if you think that Britain should stay in the EU but outside EMU, please explain how a country can continue in this semi-detached state.

I now have an easy answer to both these questions. I can simply direct readers to the ten-page "statement of general principles" published by New Europe. This statement covers precisely the questions posed by so many readers and offers answers as good as any I have seen. It is obtainable either from New Europe's website, www.new-europe.co.uk, or from its physical address: 52



Lord Owen aims to show that it is possible to be pro-European but oppose the euro

Walnut Tree Walk, London, SE11 6DN, 0171-582 1001. Having said this, let me answer more directly the two questions I posed.

Am I for or against Europe? The answer is that I strongly support Britain's involvement not only in the EU and the single market, but also in several other forums of European integration, including the European Court of Human Rights and Nato. In fact, there are several areas in which I would support much closer integration than the Government. For example, I would like to see Britain abandon its border controls as part of the Schengen agreement, to abolish the absurd quarantine laws, to join the European time zone and to stop the tantrums about "getting back our money" in EU budget debates.

I do not believe, however, that all plans for closer European integration are *ipso facto* desirable for their own sake. And I do not accept that all efforts at greater European co-operation should be undertaken within the political structure of the EU. I believe, for example, that the EU lacks the democratic legitimacy and mature political structures to

send soldiers into war. What has all this to do with economic and monetary union? Monetary policy, taxation and public spending are, in my view, areas of national sovereignty every bit as important as foreign policy and defence. In these economic areas, just as in foreign policy and defence, the EU lacks the political legitimacy and the practical competence to justify an abandonment of national sovereignty. To say this is not to oppose any pooling of national sovereignty in economic matters under any circumstances.

Just as Nato represents a partial pooling of national military power, so the EU already represents a substantial pooling of national economic sovereignty. The rational argument of those who oppose EMU is not that they reject any pooling of economic sovereignty — as Tony Blair dishonestly claimed last week. It is simply that ceding control over monetary decisions to the European Central Bank is a bridge much too far, at least under the present constitutional arrangements in Europe. "Under the present constitu-

tional arrangements" may sound like a weasel phrase, designed to allow me to slide out of my opposition to EMU (an event which will be triggered, in the opinion of many of my abusive correspondents, the moment that I receive the relevant directive from Rupert Murdoch). But for me the constitutional position in Europe goes to the heart of the matter. I believe that EMU will only succeed for the continental countries if it gradually leads to a full-scale political unification: the creation of a United States of Europe, about as closely integrated as the USA. Whether Britain should participate in such a United States of Europe would depend, for me, on two questions. What is the USE's political constitution — is it essentially a democracy or a bureaucracy? And what are Britain's prospects as an independent nation outside the USE?

The first question, about what kind of political Europe will be created as the natural corollary of EMU, cannot begin to be answered or even debated in Britain because all our "pro-European" politicians categorically deny that there is any prospect of creat-

ing a USE. If this is true, then Britain should stay out of EMU, because monetary union can only work in the context of much deeper political integration. If, on the other hand, Europe really is moving towards political integration, then that is the fundamental issue that Britain's politicians ought to debate. In that case Britain should surely not join EMU on the basis of the Government's false prospectus that this is a purely economic decision. Either way, whether Mr Blair's pretence that EMU has nothing to do with constitutional issues is mendacious or merely blinkered, joining EMU on the basis of this policy must surely be wrong.

As for the second question — about Britain's ability to survive as an independent economy — I think the answer is even more clear-cut. I am convinced that Britain can prosper as an independent nation, within the EU but outside EMU. In economic policy, we now have a successful arrangement for dividing the responsibility for monetary and fiscal policy between the Treasury and a Bank of England that is operationally independent but politically accountable to the Government. Until and unless this arrangement is found wanting, there is no reason to suppose that Britain, which is the world's fifth-largest economy and now its fourth-largest monetary power, should benefit from ceding control to the European Central Bank.

But what about the broader issue of Britain's relationship with Europe? Won't Britain lose influence in Europe? Won't Europe take its revenge on a semi-detached Britain by stacking the rules of the single market against it, or even excluding it from the EU? I think that such fears are entirely unfounded. Not only do the European treaties provide Britain with a good deal of reassurance, but there is a much more powerful reason why Britain will be treated with respect by the rest of Europe.

To trade freely and co-operate with Britain is as much in Europe's interest as it is in ours. Britain is now easily the most important single trading partner of the newly merged eurozone. In fact, eurozone does as much trade with Britain as it does with America and Japan put together. Furthermore, European companies are much bigger investors in Britain than the Japanese. For eurozone to punish Britain for staying out of EMU would be cutting off its nose to spite its face.

I can only imagine one situation in which eurozone would even be tempted to consider such a policy of cutting off its nose to spite its face. If the British economy were performing extremely well, while the eurozone economy were suffering an economic disaster, Britain's independent success might become a source of embarrassment. So perhaps Britain should join EMU to avoid embarrassing eurozone if it does too well. Is that what Tony Blair really believes?

antoine.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk

Airborne Canary leaves ruins of the tower in its wake

As if Dennis Tunncliffe, chief executive of London Underground, did not have enough on his plate, there is now the tricky question of the rent on his office at Canary Wharf. Back in the recession, London Underground (LUL) took office space at Canary Wharf. It was a gesture of support for the project in which LUL and the Government had both a political and financial stake, building the Jubilee Line extension and lending a hand to a project which had the blessing of no less a person than Margaret Thatcher.

LUL signed a lease at the end of 1993 on a 283,000 sq ft office block at just £12 per square foot, a mere bagatelle of a rent that reflected recession and the insolvency of the landlord. It also spoke eloquently of the fact that no one wanted to work in a windswept and isolated colony of office towers in Docklands.

A lot has changed in five years and LUL will pay the price, not just in cost over-runs on the Jubilee Line but on the rent review on its lease at Canary Wharf. Mr Tunncliffe will soon have to warn his boss, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, that the rent on LUL's corporate headquarters could more than double, from £3.4 million to £7.4 million.

LUL is just the beginning; it is payday for the once-improvident Canary. Tenants who struck deals at rents in mid-teens five years ago will be worried to hear that Salomon Smith Barney has agreed a rent in the mid-thirties. Canary Wharf is reaping the rewards of its former dependence on government five years down the road. Government support could not protect the company from ruin but, half a decade later, it has become a viable property business attracting tenants at market rents.

The unintended twist in the tale is that the taxpayer is subsidising the profits of a commercial business to the tune of £400 million more than a decade after it was first mooted.

To be fair, Canary Wharf would never have happened without the Enterprise Zone Allowance. When the Canadian Reichmann brothers took over the Canary Wharf project in 1987 from G Ware Travelstead, the American developer, it had been given the thumbs down by the City as well as civil servants in the Department of the Environment who regarded Docklands as beyond the pale.

The Reichmanns had a vision, a development of North American scale in Europe's financial capital, akin to the brothers' world financial centre in New York. They had capital and they courted the people that mattered. Mrs Thatcher, then Prime Minister, was photographed in the cab of a JCB as the contractors broke ground on the site.

Unfortunately, for the Reichmanns, they had less influence over another power broker — the Corporation of the City of London. The City fathers refused to countenance a shift of the financial power base to the left-wing council of Tower Hamlets. So they unleashed a tide of competing office development and the flood not only put the Wharf under water but drowned several developers.

The cost of tenant inducements and slow lettings proved a drain on the Reichmanns' empire, Olympia & York (O&Y), but the financial cataclysm that hit

Five years on, the Docklands development has become a viable business, writes Carl Mortished

Canary Wharf originated in New York, where holders of O&Y's commercial paper refused to roll over their investment. That triggered a sudden requirement for \$400 million (£250 million) which could not be met.

There followed a saga of banks seizing the assets, administration and, eventually, rebirth as Paul Reichmann bought his way back into the development for £800 million in 1995, helped by Prince al-Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, CNA and Franklin Mutual.

Mr Reichmann's determination might look like obsession to those unfamiliar with Docklands. But five years ago, the administrators did the right thing, protecting Canary Wharf from a receivership which would have extinguished the attraction of the asset. Under the Enterprise Zone scheme, developers benefited from 100 per cent capital allowances; the full cost of putting up the building could be offset against the developer's tax bill.

When Mr Reichmann bought back the development, he picked up a dowry of allowances and tax losses worth hundreds of millions of

pounds, to protect the company from the Inland Revenue. Meanwhile, things are going right at the Wharf. There is a bustle about the place, the footfall that is generated by 4.7 million square feet of fully let offices. CSFB is buying another half million square feet and HSBC is building a tower of one million square feet. The bigger prize is to the east — in the shadow of the tower of One Canada Square lie deep foundations waiting for steel frames. According to George Jacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with planning permits.

This is a new, North American style of property development — "You want a building? How big? How many offices, trading floors, lavatories? When do you need it?"

Mr Jacobescu reckons the City cannot compete. "I looked at the design for Plantation House [a City development]. What happens if someone wants 700,000 square feet instead of 500,000 square feet?" But could it all have happened without the lure of a massive fiscal holiday? Probably not, but that was another time and another Government. Today, the stock market is being offered a £2.6 billion tax-transparent real estate bet on the success of London as a financial centre over the next ten years. It looks plausible; the Canary is definitely airborne.



Canary Wharf has begun to attract tenants at market rents

Nice one Cyril

CYRIL STEIN, the legendary former Ladbrokes boss, phones me from his sickbed — a touch of the hury, apparently — to deny suggestions that he is poised to cash in his chips at the plush St James's Club, just off Piccadilly.

"There is no truth in it," he booms. "There was a rumour flying around the last few weeks — and we get approaches, of course, including one very recently — but there are no negotiations."



Stein: happily making money for himself instead of shareholders

When Stein acquired the club from the ill-fated Queens Moat Houses in 1994 for £6 million, he spent £3 million refurbishing it and talked boldly of opening St James's Clubs in cities all over the world (Peter de Savary, its cigar-chomping founding father, once made similar boasts before sailing off into the sunset).

Stein assures me he is still keen on the idea of a chain of St James's Clubs, and claims to be eyeing possible sites in New York. But for the time being he says he is "enjoying making money for myself, rather than for 70,000 shareholders".

So how, I inquire, did the sale rumour start? "It might have been when the managing director of Cliveden came to see me at the club," Stein opines. "But if I was going to do any deal I certainly wouldn't discuss it at the club."

SIR DAVID WHITE, the chairman of Mansfield Brewery, has been kind enough to send me a bottle of the company's Millennium Ale — an attractively packaged, limited-edition brew that is "designed to be drunk on New Year's Eve 1999". A word of caution to any would-be imbibers: among you, at 6.5 per cent ABV, any overindulgence is likely to preclude seeing in the new millennium in a waking state.



That isn't

THE dreaded image consultants have been up to their tricks again. SEC Group, the financial services provider, announced yesterday that it is to change its name to L.E. group plc. You may well ask. Sadly, the new identity has nothing to do with the Latin *id est*, but rather stands for "integrity" and "expertise" (qualities one automatically associates with financial advisers).

According to the blurb, the new name enables the group to offer "a unique, seamless and holistic approach to financial advisory services", and is designed to get away from its origins as Securitized Endowment Contracts. I am told that the name L.E. conveys, among other things, the

firm's "innovativeness" (sic). The only consolation is that the name change is subject to shareholder approval. If investors have any sense, they will vote against it.

Sad note

I WAS sorry to hear that ill-health has forced Michael Morley to retire early as chairman of Close Brothers. Morley, who is a gifted pianist, is one of those rare men who have worked in both industry and finance.

Although he was involved with Close Brothers from its earliest days, including a spell under the ownership of Consolidated Goldfields, he left banking in the 1980s and founded a specialist engineer called Paragon, which was eventually bought out by Portals, the banknote maker. He finally resurfaced for a second spell as chairman of Close Brothers in 1995.

Rod Kent, Close's managing director, says: "He's one of the very few merchant bankers who have also been merchants. He's also the only man I know who's been chairman of the same bank twice."

In flames

ON FRIDAY night, a colleague popped into Narn Long, the Knightsbridge cocktail bar beloved of James Archer and his fellow flaming Ferraris. Sadly, Lord Archer's son and his trader pals from CSFB were nowhere to be seen. Although there was still demand for the now infamous cocktail

from which the band drew their name — a £13 mix of spirits that is set alight and drunk through a straw — the Ferraris are understood to have switched to less potent drinks before their alleged trading misdeeds came to light. A portent of things to come?

IN ITS third-quarter report, Ionica says it "does not believe that its operations will be materially affected by Year 2000 compliance matters". Quite so. The telephone company's network was closed down at the weekend following its ignominious collapse into administration.

DOMINIC WALSH



"I'm all ready for the Canary Wharf floor"

big

on service...

...and value for money.

Rowe & Maw
LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Black Friars Lane, London EC3V 6HD
Telephone: 0171 248 4282

Billiton guarded on bleak outlook

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

BILLITON has joined the growing band of international mineral mining companies to give warning that market conditions for natural resources could get worse before they get better.

Brian Gilbertson, chairman, said yesterday that the possibility of further falls in commodity prices remained, though he believed they were "pretty close" to the bottom of the cycle.

"I don't want to sound overly bullish and say things will turn around because it is still pretty tough," Mr Gilbertson said.

"We are keeping the hatches down and we are running the business on the basis that it will be difficult."

He was speaking after the South African-based mining group and FTSE 100 company, unveiled a 34 per cent plunge in attributable profit to £165 million (£103 million) for the six months to December 31.

The result, which was at the top end of market expectations, would have been significantly worse had it not been for a cut in aluminium production costs and exchange rate gains.

Billiton's themes were very similar to those expressed last week by its industry counterpart Rio Tinto, which also gave warning of a bleak outlook.

Rio restricted the fall in its pre-tax profit to 6 per cent in 1998 but said shareholders should not expect such a favourable outcome this

year. The company said that production levels and sales volumes were either maintained or increased slightly across all its operations.

Billiton ploughed \$1.5 billion into acquisitions in the period, including a buyout of the minority shareholders in the Australian-based nickel miner QNI.

It said this left it with a war chest of almost \$2 billion, which comprised \$685 million cash and the company's remaining \$1.26 billion debt facility.

But analysts said it was unlikely Billiton could fund a significant purchase, despite its conservative gearing level of 22 per cent.

They also gave warning that it would almost certainly fail to find any further substantial cost reductions.

"There are not a lot of areas for fat to come out," one analyst said. "It is a matter of sitting tight until the market turns."

Billiton shares, which are quoted on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges, fell from a high of 186p last May to a low of 98p in August.

The interim dividend is to remain steady at 3.5 cents. The stock closed 1p lower yesterday at 134p.

The portion of Billiton shares held on the London register has jumped to 51 per cent from 37 per cent at June 30 last year.

Tempus, page 30



John Simpson, left, with board members John Fleming, Terence Whitmore and David Donnelly

Mayflower set for US

MAYFLOWER, the bus and car bodies group, is expected to announce the fine detail of a link with Mercedes-Benz in America this month (Adam Jones writes).

Mayflower, whose chief executive is John Simpson, said it is close to announcing its strategy for the US, where it wants to use its low-floor buses to break into a market where it has a negligible presence.

Last September, when it was engaged in a bid battle

for Dennis, the bus maker it now owns, Mayflower announced that it had an understanding with Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes holding company, for future co-operation.

Mayflower also said that it will not be unduly affected if Rover shuts down the factory at Longbridge in Birmingham. Mayflower makes bodies at Coventry for the Rover MGF car that is assembled at Longbridge. However, the MGF would almost certainly

be moved to another Rover plant if Longbridge shut and Mayflower's supply contract would continue.

Mayflower announced full-year profits of £42.6 million before tax and goodwill, up 28 per cent on 1997. Earnings per share fell from 8.6p to 4.7p. Sales were up 26 per cent at £495.2 million. Capital costs saw net debt fall to £280.7 million. A dividend of 2.2p has been declared, making a total of 3.3p (2.75p) for the year.

Hays moves Tibble to business process

By PAUL DURMAN

THE finance director of Hays, the distributor and office services group, is to be moved over to run the group's newly assembled business process support group, one of Hays's fastest-growing operations.

David Tibble is to relinquish the group finance director's post to run the business process operations, which last year turned over £60 million.

Mr Tibble is taking over from Graham Williams who is moving on to the operational side of the business, while Neil McLachlan, who has taken on an increasing amount of Mr Tibble's responsibilities, moves up to the group finance director post.

Hays formed the business process group from a series of acquisitions made over the past two years. These include Paperstream, an invoicing and payment processing firm, Castle, which runs billing systems, DEI Group, which offers document management and imaging, and Axis Resources, an IT outsourcing business. Activities also include helping to run call centres.

Hays reported another set of strong results yesterday that showed pre-tax profits rising by 20 per cent to £10.4 million on turnover of £87.7 million. It is increasing its interim dividend by 16 per cent to 2p a share.

The growth was led by the personnel division, which increased profits 30 per cent to £41.6 million. Ronnie Frost, chairman, reiterated his confidence that Britain is not facing a recession. He said: "If anything, there could be an improvement in the slowdown in growth that's occurred over the last six months. There are not problems that are big enough to affect the results of the group."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sage launches £78m bid for Tetra

SAGE GROUP has launched a £78.1 million recommended takeover bid for Tetra, a rival business and accounting software supplier. The offer of cash and shares values each Tetra share at 305p, a near-63 per cent premium over the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made public in late January. Tetra directors have given irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer in respect of 21.7 per cent of the company. Tetra shares rose 42p to 286p while Sage fell 40p to £19.77p.

Sage said the acquisition would accelerate its development in the mid-market sector and would give rise to cross-selling benefits. Yesterday Tetra announced operating profits of £1.6 million before exceptional items and non-recurring costs for the six months to November 30. In its last full year the company, which came to the stock market in 1998, earned £3.4 million.

Perkins set to spend

PERKINS FOODS, which returned £58 million cash to shareholders last year, may hand back more money and make further acquisitions. At the end of the year to December 31, the company had £13 million of cash and about £60 million borrowing facilities. Ian Blackburn, chief executive, said: "Pre-tax profit rose from £28 million to £55.1 million after the company made a profit of £33.6 million on the disposal of its fresh produce division. Diluted earnings per share rose from 9.7p to 29.7p and a final dividend of 2.85p (2.8p) will give a full-year payout of 4.65p (4.6p)."

Danisco acquisition

DANISCO, the Danish food group, yesterday agreed to buy Cultor, the Finnish ingredients company, for DKr9.5 billion (£881 million), creating Europe's sixth-biggest food company. The new group, to be headquartered in Copenhagen, will retain the Danisco name. In sugar and sweeteners the enlarged Danisco will become the fourth-largest maker in Europe after Sudzucker of Germany, France's Eridania and British Sugar. It will leapfrog ICI Quest and Dutch-owned DSM Brocades to become Europe's largest food ingredients maker.

D&G profits advance

DOMESTIC & GENERAL, the specialist domestic appliance breakdown insurer, saw pre-tax profit rise from £6.65 million to £7.3 million in the six months to December 31. Turnover was up 10.3 per cent to £49.7 million in a period that the company said had been one of "both stability and progress". Diluted earnings per share rose from 13.08p to 14.29p and the company will pay an interim dividend of 4p (3.5p). The shares fell back 5p to 59.5p yesterday, having recently touched a high of 62p.

Horace Small sells

HORACE SMALL APPAREL is raising £35.8 million through the sale of its North American clothing businesses. The disposal of Horace Small Holdings Corporation, announced yesterday, will trigger the payment of executive bonuses totalling \$600,000 (£375,000) to three senior directors of the subsidiary. In 1998 the US businesses earned operating profits of £900,000 on turnover of £72.1 million. The buyer is VF Workwear. Some £35 million on the balance sheet will be returned to shareholders. Horace Small shares rose 28p to 79p.

Pendragon cautious

PENDRAGON, the motor dealer, expects the new car market this year to be weaker than in 1998, although the outcome was difficult to predict because of the new system of two registration plate changes in March and September. The company, whose takeover of rival Evans Halshaw was completed last month, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £18.66 million from £15.08 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were unchanged at 21.2p a share. The total dividend rises to 12p a share from 10.7p, with a final 8p.

Dixon Motors ahead

DIXON MOTORS, the car retailer that is also the UK's largest retailer of motorcycles, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £11 million from £8.7 million on turnover that rose to almost £638 million from £413.6 million. Paul Dixon, chief executive, said the company had made an encouraging start to the year, with like-for-like used car sales up 17 per cent and motorcycle sales up 29 per cent. A final 6p dividend lifts the total 20 per cent to 9p, payable from earnings that were little changed at 26.5p, against 26.3p, because of a higher tax rate.

The Corporate Bond PEP

Source: Legal & General. The running yield of the Fixed Interest Trust was 6.1% (6.7% redemption yield) as at 1 February 1999. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All companies of credit rating PEP investing which in UK Trusts Tax advantages are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Overseas) Limited, Registered in England No. 2722999. Registered Office: Temple Lane, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 3DF. Representative only of the Legal & General Insurance Group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and (DfT) for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. A member of MIFID Investors should be aware that under the EU Directive on the capital value of investments in fixed interest there is no guarantee. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available.

**6.1%* pa
tax free**

An interest rate of **7.6% gross pa** would be required in a bank or building society deposit account to achieve 6.1% net pa for a basic rate taxpayer

Find out more now - call freephone

0500 11 66 22

9am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends

Please quote ref: DTD08

Legal & General

F&C puts faith in buyback plan

By ROBERT LEA

FOREIGN & Colonial, the largest general investment trust quoted in London, yesterday said it is putting faith in a £300 million share buyback programme and the launch of its own individual savings account next month to boost its flagging share price.

The trust reported that at December 31 net assets had risen by 11.8 per cent to £2.39 billion or 227.41p a share. However, over the same period F&C's share price had risen by just 7.1 per cent to 188p — a 17.2 per cent discount to net asset value.

Blame for the widening discount is attached to F&C's investment performance, which beat the 10.9 per cent growth

of the FTSE All-share index but lagged behind the returns from index-tracking funds following the FTSE 100 and the Dow Jones on Wall Street.

John Sclater, the chairman, admitted a number of investment failings including limited exposure to the strong-performing UK telecoms sector.

He said F&C will be redoubling its efforts to raise its profile with investors: "We are expanding our own marketing efforts and the launch of the ISA presents a particular opportunity for us."

F&C shares rose 1p to 195p. The dividend per share is up to 2.77p from 2.51p.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS £

Great hotel deals for business travellers

From **£29** Per room per night

FOCUS



<p>Only £29</p> <p>Belfast Bolton Havant Liverpool</p>	<p>Only £49</p> <p>Aberdeen Ashford Basingstoke Birmingham Cardiff Carlisle Chester Coventry Croydon Derby/Burton Edinburgh Epping</p>	<p>Only £59</p> <p>Basingstoke Belfast Birmingham Airport Birmingham Bristol Cardiff City Colchester</p>	<p>Only £69</p> <p>Cambridge Farnborough Guildford Leeds Nottingham/Leeds</p>	<p>Only £69</p> <p>Aylesbury South Mims Hemel Hempstead Milton Keynes</p>	<p>Only £69</p> <p>Bloomsbury Hampstead Kensington Regent's Park Gatwick Heathrow</p>	<p>Only £29</p> <p>Birmingham City Dover Grimsby Leeds/Selby Peterborough Portsmouth Sheffield Stevenage Walsall York</p>	<p>Only £49</p> <p>Fareham Glasgow Erskine Gloucester Hull Ipswich Lancaster Leeds/Bradford Leeds/Brighouse Leicester Lincoln Maidstone/Sevenoaks Plymouth</p>	<p>Only £59</p> <p>Dublin (IR) Glasgow Airport Glasgow City Haydock High Wycombe Hull Marina Manchester</p>	<p>Only £69</p> <p>Manchester Airport Newcastle-upon-Tyne Nottingham City Norwich Preston Reading Swansea</p>	<p>Only £69</p> <p>Rochester Rugby/Northampton Southampton Southampton/Eastleigh Stoke-on-Trent Swindon Taunton Teesside Wakefield Warrington/Runcom Washington</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Posthouse

See your travel agent or call

0800 40 40 40

Quoting reference: FOCUS 3

www.posthouse-hotels.com

A Division of Posthouse Hotels

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or double occupancy, fully inclusive of tax and service. Offer available at listed hotels to 30th April 1999. Stays from Monday to Thursday inclusive. All reservations subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. Bookings to be made via Central Reservations prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be

used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. Posthouse Hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or guaranteed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day of arrival will be liable to a non-refundable charge of the first night's tariff. All unconfirmed bookings will be reduced at 2pm on day of arrival.

Equities fall in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	----

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BANKS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING MATERIALS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
CHEMICALS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
CONSTRUCTION							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
DISTRIBUTORS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
HEALTHCARE							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
HOUSEHOLD CDS & TEXT							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INSURANCE							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
MEDIA							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
PHARMACEUTICALS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
UNDATED							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
PRINTING & PAPER							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
PROPERTY							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
RETAILERS, FOOD							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
SUPPORT SERVICES							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
TRANSPORT							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
WATER							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET							
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
1999	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

Thousands of businesses come back to BT every month.

Freefone 0800 800 800 BT or visit www.bt.com/thousands

Muffins are perfect recipe for success

By HENRIETTA LAKE

A new image, clever marketing and a booming snacking culture in the UK has turned into the perfect recipe for The Fabulous Baking Boys almost to double turnover in just over one year.

The firm, based in Witney in Oxfordshire, expects sales worth £10 million this year after rebranding its 40 varieties of muffins, flapjacks and cookies in 1997 and deciding to risk allocating 10 per cent of its turnover to marketing each year.

The Fabulous Baking Boys, a partnership between two brothers, Gary and Jon Frank, and husband and wife team Andrew and Sara Staples, now has a staff of 72 but started in very different circumstances after the stock market crash of the late 1980s.

Having been on the dole for a year, Gary Frank, a former City trader, decided to set up the Delicious Donut Company with the help of the Government's enterprise scheme. Business was fine until the competition heated up.

Mr Frank said: "Soon everyone was cashing in on the snacking craze: our doughnuts and muffins were being copied everywhere. We had to think of a way to set ourselves apart from the competition and appeal directly to the customer."

But this was not an easy task as the partners believed that a totally different style of marketing was needed in order to succeed and wanted to distance themselves from the way baked goods were traditionally sold using homely values.

So the partners hired a recruitment consultant to find a marketing manager and briefed a design agency to help them to rethink their product.

The project cost £750,000 and was funded entirely through accumulated profits, on a turnover of just under £5 million in 1997.

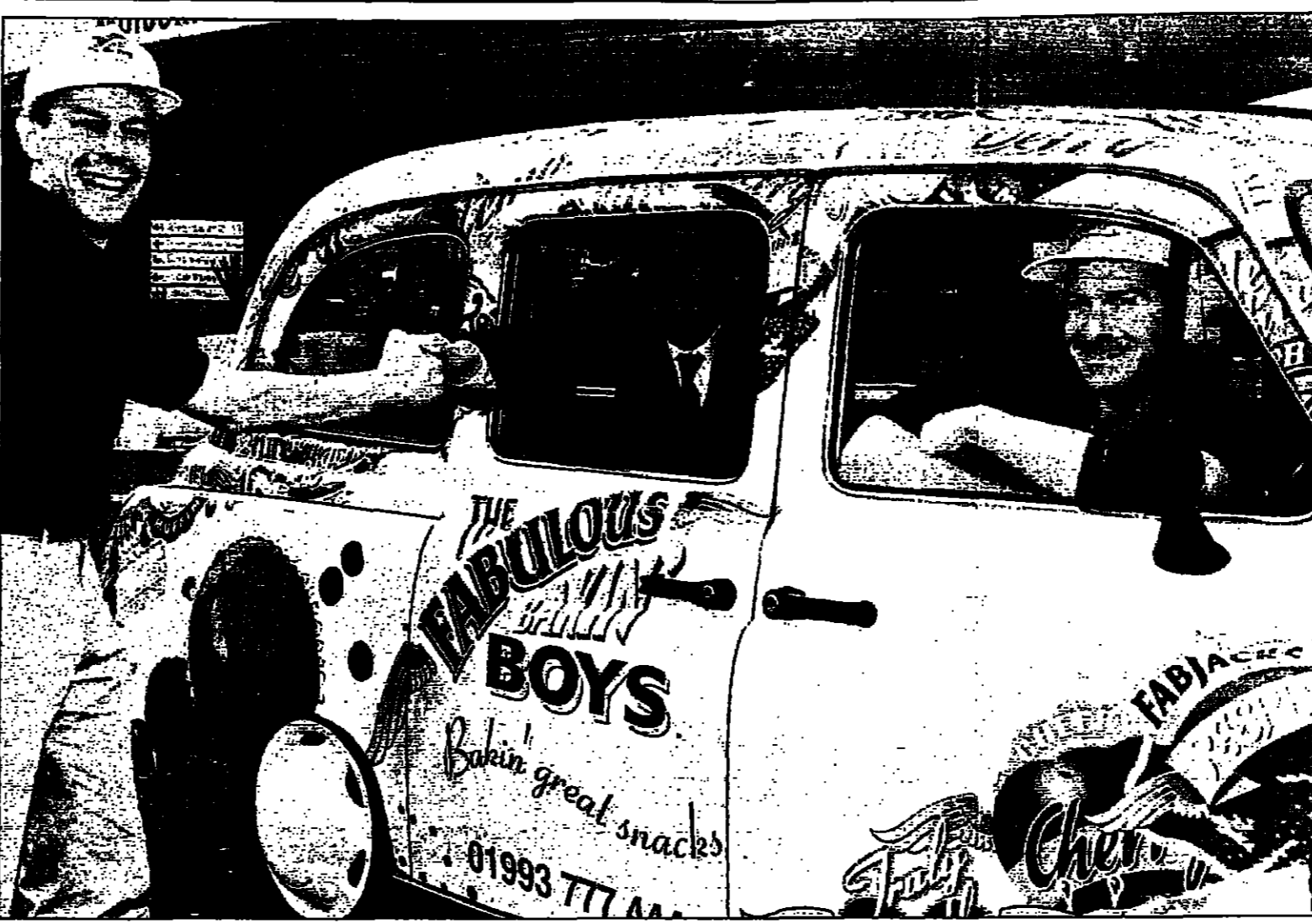
It was a nerve-racking nine months for the firm as numerous ideas from the design team were rejected. But then, with only a couple of months to go before the money ran out, the idea of the Fabulous Baking Boys, its logo, name and mission to bring "fun, innovative, and tasty products to the consumer" was born.

"It was a lot of money for us to spend back then and we really thought we were running out of time, but in the end the payback has been huge," Mr Frank said.

Today the company has a new £2 million factory in Witney and the brothers can count the caterers Compass and Gardner Merchant, plus Boots, Morrisons, Budegens and British Airways among their clients.

Last month the Baking Boys decided to take their message to the streets and invested in ten liveried London taxis. They decided to plump for the taxis, which cost £50,000 for 12 months on the roads, rather than 300 to 400 posters on the London Underground, for a month, at twice the price, Nick Brown, Agriculture Minister, even arrived at a recent trade fair in one of the new taxis.

Another ten are on order for outside London. The unorthodox approach seems to be paying off. In April and May this year a national press advertising campaign is planned to tie in with the arrival, months ahead of schedule, of packs of individually wrapped Fabulous Baking Boys muffins in the supermarkets.



Gary, left, and Jon Frank invested in liveried taxis to advertise their products. Congratulating them on their initiative is Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister

Final chance to limit risk of Budget blues

ALTHOUGH it is billed as the "Budget for Enterprise" and expected to have an overall positive impact on small firms, there are several steps that business owners can take to minimise any nasty shocks before Budget day next Tuesday (Henrietta Lake writes).

Make sure that you do not miss the boat by failing to capitalise on certain tax reliefs while they still exist. The main areas to tackle before March 9 concern possible changes to inheritance tax.

The first is business property tax relief. Many experts are predicting that it is likely to be reduced from 100 per cent to only 50 per cent, unless the shareholder has control of the company. It may also be extended to exclude a wider variety of trades along the lines of the restrictions to the relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme. In order not to lose out on the existing levels of relief, consult an accountant about setting up a discretionary trust.

Business owners wanting to make sure that they reap the maximum benefit from the current retirement relief allowance, before it is phased out as part of the reform of capital gains tax, may also want to take action over the next seven days.

The Chancellor has stipulated that the relief will start to decrease from April 6, the start of the new tax year, but he may decide to bring this deadline forward to Budget day itself in order to guarantee revenue to the Treasury and discourage too many people from rushing to their accountants. Business owners not wishing to take the chance should crystallise gains now and make use of the full £250,000 relief by using a life interest trust.

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the accountant, said: "We can't predict exactly what the Chancellor will do but making some changes before next week might be worth the trouble."

Online banking meets key needs

By RICHARD COLWILL

BUSINESS BYTES

TIME and money are the two things in shortest supply in most small firms, so the arrival of online banking, with lower charges and increased flexibility and speed, promises to bring real benefits.

About 10 per cent of small and medium-sized companies currently use online banking, but recent figures suggest that numbers are set to rise.

The most widespread online service is PC banking, which involves connecting a PC — via a modem — to a bank's mainframe computer. Most high street banks provide a PC banking service. Costs can vary, so it is worthwhile comparing set-up fees and the full range of charges.

The Royal Bank of Scotland, whose fees are broadly in line with competitors, charges £10 a month, with no set-up fee. Transferring money between RBS accounts is free, but there is a 10p charge for transfers with another bank and for any Bacs payment. The transfer takes two working days. For same-day transfers via Chaps, the charge is £6.

The Co-operative Bank has a set-up fee of £100 plus VAT, and monthly charges are either £10 or £15, depending on the level of service required. Single transfers cost either 20p or 25p. Transfers between Co-operative Bank accounts are free. Making bulk Bacs

payments will cost an additional £15 a month. Each transfer costs either 14p or 15p.

What you get for your money with online banking is up-to-date information on account balances and recent entries, along with facilities such as making payment instructions and transfers between accounts. Downloading account information on to accounting software, such as Quicken or Microsoft Money, is possible, but it is worthwhile checking the compatibility between what the bank provides and what you have installed in your PC. More complex services, such as arranging loans, still have to be done through

speaking to managers at the branch or by telephone.

However, soon some of these and other more complex transactions could be done on a computer via the Internet. Many of the high street banks are now involved in pilot projects to develop Internet-based online banking.

Internet banking avoids the restrictions of "closed" networks and lets the user form multiple links to do business with banks, customers and suppliers. The Internet will make online banking simpler and more responsive to the demands of small business — and, as in the US, charges should fall. Another advantage of the Internet is that new software can be ordered and downloaded instantly, rather than being sent by the bank.

Barclays Bank will, from today, offer an Internet connection with 5,000 companies and organisations nationwide, including the Inland Revenue. The service can be downloaded instantly from the Internet and a fund transfer will cost 45p. Barclays offers its Internet banking service with a connection charge of £20 and a fee of £15 a year.

CONTACTS

NatWest 0800 777888; Barclays 0800 0000978; Royal Bank of Scotland 0345 165108; Co-operative Bank 0345 616616; Lloyds — contact local branch.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6111

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FAX:
0171 782 7827

BUSINESS FOR SALE

INTERVIEW Design/Build flourishing business in Surrey for sale. The owner is moving overseas and is seeking a buyer to take over the business. The business is well established and has a strong reputation. The owner is offering the business for sale at a very attractive price. For more information, contact: 01232 840400.

Gift shop Thurston/Horsham Town. 7/0 £100K. GP 45K. Retirement. Priced to sell. Business for sale. 01325 484000.

5TH AFRICAN GAME FARM 200 acres with a 100-acre river. The farm is well established and has a strong reputation. The owner is offering the farm for sale at a very attractive price. For more information, contact: 01325 484000.

BUSINESSES WANTED UNLIMITED funds. We want to pay cash for your business. We are looking for businesses in all sectors. For more information, contact: 0171 680 6111.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

1998. Exit the Rat Race. 99% Free. Proven. Family. 100% Cash. 01232 840400.

IDEA OR INVENTION? FOR FREE INFORMATION PACK CALL 0171 680 6111.

BUSINESS OVERSEAS

Turn our expertise into your export ease

Whether you are a first-time or an established exporter, make the Government Exports Website your first port of call for developing export strategy and overseas sales leads and contacts.

Export intelligence starts here: www.dti.gov.uk/ots/

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AA&B This is one that is worth considering. Tel: 0181 887 8878.

AMERICAN Your financial GP. 10% of profits. 7/0 or 8/0. Call 01796 900 577 (0450) and 01796 900 577 (0450).

ABOUT TIME to secure your future. 21st-century. 7/0 or 8/0. Call 01796 900 577 (0450) and 01796 900 577 (0450).

ABSOLUTE business to be made with Internet. Tel: 0181 887 8878.

Mortgage Hunters.

Pay less pcm & own it quicker. Don't do any deal until you hear how much we can save you. 0171 692 0647.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER EACH OTHER Do you require a secondary business? Do you need a new business? Do you need a new business? For more information, contact: 0171 692 0647.

FRANCHISES

EXCLUSIVE new and copy franchises. Call: 0181 887 8878.

LOANS & INVESTMENT

NON-STATUTORY REMORTGAGE. 0181 887 8878.

LOANS & INVESTMENT

£1 million plus. Funding on Commission. 0181 887 8878.

AT Loans Service. 0181 887 8878.

AT Loans Service. 0181 887 8878.

AT Loans Service. 0181 887 8878.

BRIDGING LOANS

Secured on Residential & Commercial property for any purpose. 0181 887 8878.

FAST PAYOUT SHORT TERM LOANS. 0181 887 8878.

BUSINESS SERVICES

COMPANY SPECIALISTS. 0181 887 8878.

INTERNET SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL website design. 0181 887 8878.

WHOLESALE

STOCK of 500 luxury white leather sofas. 0181 887 8878.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX NO. 0181 887 8878.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX NO. 0181 887 8878.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX NO. 0181 887 8878.

COMPANY SPECIALISTS

COMPANY STORE GROUP. 0181 887 8878.

COMPANY SPECIALISTS COMPANY STORE GROUP. 0181 887 8878.

Support

Why pay for it?

All EveshamVale PCs include: 2 years On-site Warranty & FREEPHONE Technical Support

Buy Now Pay Later. 0181 887 8878.

Includes Windows 98 & BT Click FREE Internet Access

0800 496 0800

Visit one of our showrooms at: Vale Park EVERHAM Tel: 01236 79750 Melchett Road, Kings Norton BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 6838988 5 Gilson Road CAMBRIDGE Tel: 01223 323898 320 Wigan Gate MILTON KEYNES Tel: 01908 230898 Gloucester Court, Gloucester Terrace LEEDS Tel: 0113 2032000 Promenade Road, Dublin Port, DUBLIN Tel: 00 353 1 855 4444

Web: <http://www.evesham.com>

Best PC

System Manufacturer 1998

PC Plus magazine

EveshamMicros have done it again - for the second year running!

EveshamVale Prestige 450-DVD TNT

(£1249-VAT) £1467.58 Inc VAT

EveshamVale Prestige 500-DVD TNT

(£1379-VAT) £1620.33 Inc VAT

Introducing the power of Intel® Pentium® III processor

With a vast array of new features the Intel® Pentium® III processor 500MHz is up to 93% faster than the Intel® Pentium® II processor 450MHz using software designed for the Intel® Pentium® III processor.

Intel® Pentium® III processor 450MHz or 500MHz

Intel® 440BX AGPset

128MB SDRAM

12.9GB Ultra ATA hard disk

16MB STB Velocity 4400 TNT graphics

4.8x DVD-ROM drive

17" EveshamVale monitor

64 voice SoundBlaster PCI sound card

Zy-Fi Pro amplified speakers

56K v.90 Diamond PCI modem

PC PRO "There's enough speed here for most year's apps and, considering the 575 graphics card, next year's games too. The result is an ideal home system that won't be out of place in a business environment. All in all, a good buy."

Micro Computer World "I have not heard of the 17 inch MAG (EveshamVale) monitor before, but again I have nothing but praise for it."

To order or request a full range Brochure call

0800 496 0800

Visit one of our showrooms at: Vale Park EVERHAM Tel: 01236 79750 Melchett Road, Kings Norton BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 6838988 5 Gilson Road CAMBRIDGE Tel: 01223 323898 320 Wigan Gate MILTON KEYNES Tel: 01908 230898 Gloucester Court, Gloucester Terrace LEEDS Tel: 0113 2032000 Promenade Road, Dublin Port, DUBLIN Tel: 00 353 1 855 4444

Web: <http://www.evesham.com>

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

0800 496 0800

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

امكن من الأهل

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899



CORPORATE TAX - SENIOR ASSISTANT 3-6 YEARS' PQE

Speechly Bircham is focused on success. In each of our seven core practice areas we have an acknowledged and often leading reputation for quality. Acting for top clients - many of them international - we consistently punch above our weight.

Nowhere is our success more pronounced than in tax. We are one of only three firms to have received recommendations in the 1998 Legal 500 for expertise in each of corporate, VAT and personal taxation. We are specialists in developing and implementing innovative tax structures and, unlike many tax groups, we play a direct role in generating new business. Our work is characterised by an innovative attitude to problem solving and the effective management of our clients' legal affairs.

As a senior tax lawyer, you will work on a wide range of commercial tax transactions, many of which will be international in scope. This is a superb opportunity to build your professional reputation in an environment where corporate support will far from dominate your work. To succeed, you will need to be a City-based tax lawyer able to combine sound business acumen with exceptional legal skills. If you want to find out more about Speechly Bircham, visit us on our website www.speechlybircham.co.uk



SPEECHLY BIRCHAM

FOCUSSED ON SUCCESS

For further information, please contact:
Mr. John Smith, Senior Partner
Mr. David Jones, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Brown, Senior Partner
Mr. Michael White, Senior Partner
Mr. James Black, Senior Partner
Mr. Peter Green, Senior Partner
Mr. Richard Taylor, Senior Partner
Mr. Christopher Lee, Senior Partner
Mr. Benjamin Hall, Senior Partner
Mr. George King, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Scott, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas Young, Senior Partner
Mr. Charles Adams, Senior Partner
Mr. Philip Baker, Senior Partner
Mr. William Bell, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Clark, Senior Partner
Mr. George Evans, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Fox, Senior Partner
Mr. James Gale, Senior Partner
Mr. John Harris, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Jones, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas King, Senior Partner
Mr. William Lee, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Martin, Senior Partner
Mr. George Nash, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Owen, Senior Partner
Mr. James Palmer, Senior Partner
Mr. John Quinn, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Reed, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas Scott, Senior Partner
Mr. William Taylor, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Turner, Senior Partner
Mr. George Walker, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Wright, Senior Partner
Mr. James Young, Senior Partner
Mr. John Ziegler, Senior Partner

Mr. John Smith, Senior Partner
Mr. David Jones, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Brown, Senior Partner
Mr. Michael White, Senior Partner
Mr. James Black, Senior Partner
Mr. Peter Green, Senior Partner
Mr. Richard Taylor, Senior Partner
Mr. Christopher Lee, Senior Partner
Mr. Benjamin Hall, Senior Partner
Mr. George King, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Scott, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas Young, Senior Partner
Mr. Charles Adams, Senior Partner
Mr. Philip Baker, Senior Partner
Mr. William Bell, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Clark, Senior Partner
Mr. George Evans, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Fox, Senior Partner
Mr. James Gale, Senior Partner
Mr. John Harris, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Jones, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas King, Senior Partner
Mr. William Lee, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Martin, Senior Partner
Mr. George Nash, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Owen, Senior Partner
Mr. James Palmer, Senior Partner
Mr. John Quinn, Senior Partner
Mr. Robert Reed, Senior Partner
Mr. Thomas Scott, Senior Partner
Mr. William Taylor, Senior Partner
Mr. Edward Turner, Senior Partner
Mr. George Walker, Senior Partner
Mr. Henry Wright, Senior Partner
Mr. James Young, Senior Partner
Mr. John Ziegler, Senior Partner



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT LAWYERS

Unlike the traditional PSL or know how officer our Knowledge Management lawyers play a pro-active, front line role at the very hub of what makes S J Berwin & Co tick. We see the key to maintaining our leading edge as the effective harnessing, delivery and cross-fertilisation of legal knowledge both internally within the firm and externally amongst our clients.

We seek individuals who share our vision and are attracted by the concept of turning technical developments within the law into know how based marketing and business development opportunities.

You may be a fee earning lawyer looking for something different - but not back room; or someone who has already made the transition to a non-fee earning role seeking more buzz and excitement. Either way, you must combine excellent communication skills with technical ability and commercial nous. You will also not be frightened by information technology.

Opportunities for knowledge management lawyers are currently available in the following departments:

- Tax
- Financial Services
- Corporate
- Employment

We will consider applications on a full or part time basis or from those who are keen to combine knowledge management with some fee earning. Most importantly, there will be no glass ceilings or career boundaries. In positions key to the shaping of our future.

For more information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants Greg Abrahams or Cleo Stanforth on 0171 405 6082 (0171 435 4663 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394 Email: stanthorpe@qdggroup.co.uk

SJ Berwin & Co

TRAFFICMASTER PLC COMMERCIAL LAWYER Milton Keynes

Trafficmaster Plc, the world's leading provider of driver information, is growing rapidly. We seek a lawyer with 2-3 years experience to help us achieve our objectives. The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate strong commercial awareness - our office is too small for ivory towers!

The other main requirements of this new position, which is responsible for all internal legal matters, include:

- excellent contract drafting skills; joint venture experience would be helpful
- good all round experience relevant to the needs of a young, growing company
- a positive and adaptable attitude
- some European exposure would be helpful

This is no 9 to 5 job and you will be expected to make a major contribution to our commercial success. If you relish the challenge and wish to gain excellent experience at the same time, please send your CV and current salary details to:

Bill McIntosh
Trafficmaster Plc
Marlborough Court
Sunrise Parkway
Lindford Wood
Milton Keynes
Bucks MK17 8LA
Email: bill.mcintosh@trafficmaster.co.uk

THE CHAMBERS OF MICHAEL LYNDON-STANFORD QC

13

In keeping with our continuing aim of expansion to meet our clients' needs we always welcome tenancy applications from successful Silks and Juniors at any level of call.

At the present time we are actively seeking suitable candidates.

If you think a move to a friendly highly motivated set would assist your career please apply in writing or in person to Christopher Pymont QC (all applications are treated in the strictest confidence).

13, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3UA

Tel: 0171 404 4800 Fax: 0171 405 4267

Email: clerks@13oldsquare.law.co.uk

DX: 326 Chancery Lane

The 8th Annual
**Competitive Marketing
for Accountants & Solicitors**
Client Care
Conference Wednesday 10 March 1999
& Optional Workshop Thursday 11 March
Sponsored by
THE TIMES
The Royal Aeronautical Society, Hyde Park Corner, London W1

The Conference Wednesday 10th March 1999
Conference Chairman: **Adrian Martin** (Managing Director, Enterprise Oil)
Vivien Gaymer (Managing Director, Enterprise Oil)
Teresa Graham Ose (Chief Service Review, Baker Tilly)
Richard Hinton (Business Development Director, Shoosmiths & Harrison)
Winning Client Care Award
Robert Derry-Evans (Managing Partner, Cameron McKenna Law Firm of the Year)
Martin Hayman (In House Counsel, Standard Chartered Bank)

The Optional Workshop Thursday 11th March
Byron Sabol (Principal, Byron G. Sabol Inc. (USA))
Ian Ruskin Brown (Managing Director, MNIS Associates)
Kevin Wheeler (Principal, Wheeler Associates)

Gary Lubner (Managing Director, Autoglass)
Leslie Perrin (Managing Partner, Osborne Clarke)
Tony Reiss (Managing Director, Ince & Co)

This continues to be the foremost event for anyone in a professional services firm - whether large or small concerned with growth and increasing profitability. The conference gives the breadth on the issues while the workshop goes for depth - attend either or both.

TIMES readers have a special price of £359 plus VAT (reduced from £399 plus VAT) to attend either the Conference or Workshop. To attend both the fee is reduced to £699 plus VAT.

Each day qualifies for 18 CPE points for accountants and 7 CPD hours for solicitors.

Name _____ Position _____
Firm/Organisation _____ Post Code _____ Tel _____
Address _____
I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS or charge my
AmEx / Visa / MasterCard £ _____ card no: _____ Expiry date /
Conference only ☐ Workshop only ☐ £359+VAT (£421.33) Conference & Workshop ☐ £699+VAT (£821.33)

Mail or fax to Janice Kohnt LLE, CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS
11 Queen's Gate Place, London SW7 5NX Tel 0171 838 0008 Fax 0171 838 0009

LEGAL ADVISER

Changing the shape of global commerce

Based at European HQ, Central London

If you're a practically-minded lawyer with between one and five years' post-qualification experience, you simply won't find more variety than we can offer here at Equifax. As a leading-edge company in the information market, we have operations in 40 countries and our customers include some of the biggest players in the banking, finance and retail sectors.

We're looking for someone who combines legal knowledge with an ability to negotiate and communicate in plain English. You'll understand your clients and their commercial objectives and be committed to adding real value to their business. Confident, but never arrogant, you will be able to reflect on your

progress and achievements with a view to continual professional development.

An average week might see you involved in a major contract for the development of a database and the supply of information (perhaps on-line or over the Internet), managing external lawyers, overseeing a corporate project or dealing with a regulator. An interest in IT would clearly be an advantage, but the most important thing is that you enjoy being creative when it comes to finding solutions.

We can promise you a package that's every bit as good as the one you have currently, including a car or car allowance, contributory pension, life

assurance, health insurance, 26 days' holiday and a bonus. Flexible working hours will also be considered.

To apply, please send a full CV - stating your current salary - to Helen O'Hanlon, HR Manager, Equifax PLC, Capital House, 25 Chapel Street, London NW1 5DS. You may wish to include a brief statement in support of your application, although this isn't compulsory.

Equifax is an equal opportunity employer.

EQUIFAX

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899



The Global Distribution Solution

European Corporate Counsel

5-8 Years' ppe - Amsterdam
To £Outstanding + Relocation

Founded in 1991, ProLogis is the largest publicly held global owner and operator of distribution properties headquartered in the United States. With a market capitalization exceeding \$5 billion the company's commitment is to be 'the Global Distribution Solution' by providing distribution facilities and services to meet customer expansion needs globally. With facilities, service offices and properties for future development totalling 127.4 million square feet in 90 global markets across North America, Mexico and Europe the company is on line to meet this objective.

Due to this rapid expansion and strong growth, particularly in the European markets, the company is increasing its operations in Amsterdam - the European headquarters.

You will be a corporate lawyer, with 5-8 years' European ppe of major transactional issues, ideally with an international focus. A second language, in addition to English, and some exposure to the real estate sector would be strongly advantageous - but neither of these are pre-requisites. Crucially you will be able to work autonomously dealing with corporate aspects of significant property interests across Europe, liaising with local lawyers in each jurisdiction, and working alongside senior managers based in Amsterdam. You will enjoy strong local support, joining an established team that has recently been augmented by two senior managers from the company's head office.

This position will suit a proactive customer-focussed lawyer wanting to sharpen his or her negotiation and influencing skills in a fast growing service-driven industry. In time you may have the opportunity to develop the role as the business expands. A competitive base salary together with benefits package to include relocation are on offer.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Kate Swadlow on 0171 405 6062 (0900 559 233 evenings/weekends) or write to her at QD In-House Legal.

email: kate@qdgroupp.co.uk

QD In-House Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 405 6062
Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394
Web: www.qdgroupp.co.uk

This advertisement is being exclusively handled by QD In-House Legal, and any direct or third party applications will be sent to them.



QD

Legal Adviser/Company Secretary

Hong Kong

c.£180,000 package

Our client is one of Hong Kong's most consistently successful commercial entities and has established a world-class reputation within its areas of operation. A multi-billion-pound business, its activities touch the lives of the vast majority of Hong Kong residents. There is great employee pride in this organisation - a corporation whose track record of top-quality delivery is as strong as its commitment to excellence. An opportunity has arisen for a first-class, commercially-astute lawyer who unites blue-chip training with a strong track record in industry to join this most exciting of companies. Reporting to the Main Board Legal Director, but with responsibility for delivering solutions at the highest level within the organisation, this role demands proven business acumen and sound technical legal ability.

The role

- providing general commercial advice to the projects side of the operation
- working closely with the Treasury function on big-ticket finance transactions
- attending the Main Board and managing associated internal communication
- managing the insurance concerns of the organisation, including loss-adjustment
- taking a pro-active and solutions-orientated part in new business contracting.

The person

- qualified solicitor with a minimum of 10 years' post-qualification experience
- seasoned in-house counsel with a strong track record in company/commercial law
- accustomed to exposure to top-level decision-makers, but effective at all levels
- insurance experience would be preferable
- pragmatic and solutions-orientated: mentally agile and able to prioritise clearly.

Please write enclosing your cv, explaining your suitability for the role and outlining current remuneration, to Juliet Shepherd, Executive Search and Selection, Ref: 2639LA/T, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR. Tel: 0171-730 9000. Fax: 0171-333 5330. E-mail: juliet.shepherd@pa-consulting.com

Global Recruitment

PA Consulting Group

International Banking Lawyer

3-5PQE - LUXEMBOURG

Our client is one of the largest international multi-lateral lending institutions, contributing to European development and providing lending facilities to over 120 countries globally.

An additional lawyer is sought to join the Legal Directorate in Luxembourg to advise on non-European lending operations in a challenging and dynamic international arena.

The successful candidate will have gained at least 3 years' post-qualification experience in banking, structured finance and investment and have the ability to handle complex finance documentation.

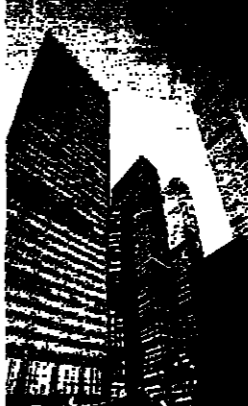
Candidates should be EU nationals with a good knowledge of French. Knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage. Proven drafting skills and sound judgement, in addition to energy, drive and initiative should be evident.

Our client offers an attractive salary and range of benefits.

For more information, or a confidential discussion, please contact Sian Bishop or Marian Lloyd-Jones.



LIPSON LLOYD JONES
LEGAL RECRUITMENT



127 Cheapside
London EC2V 6BT
Tel: 0171 600 1690
Fax: 0171 600 1972
info@lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk
www.lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk

In-House • Your First Move?

London - Private Practice

SOUTH COAST

to c.£40k
Varied role with major financial services co. for adaptable, business minded commercial lawyer to handle diverse range of contract, finance, employment and dispute work.

TRADEMARKS

5yrs+
London - Blue-chip co seeks a senior TMA and/or legal qualified specialist with good prosecutions experience to join team. Highly competitive salary & package.

TELECOMS CO

c.2yrs
Reading - Great opportunity for a commercial lawyer to join the legal team at major Euro telecoms co. Wide range of telecoms & general supply contracts, languages a plus.

PROPERTY - Retail Co

to c.£40k
London - Major retail co seeks a 3yr+ ppe commercial property lawyer to join team handling a diverse workload. Rolling 6 months contract - possibly turning permanent.

TELECOMS CO

2-4yrs
London - Opportunity for pragmatic young commercial lawyer to join major telecoms co to advise on range of complex contracts including interconnect agreements.

EC/COMPETITION

3-5yrs
London - EC/competition specialist to join Blue Chip and play a vital role in advising on competition law and policy.

CONSUMER GOODS CO

c.2-3yrs
Herts - Expanding new role with fast expanding consumer goods co for a young lawyer to handle varied commercial, media, IP and EU workload.

REGULATORY BODY

to c.£33k
City regulatory body seeks a young lawyer for varied role focused on the investigation of and reporting on claims of professional misconduct.

COICOM - Bioscience Co

0-2yrs
Surrey - International Bioscience co offers exciting first in-house move for strong coicom lawyer to join well-regarded legal team. Varied international company/commercial work.

UK COUNSEL - Telecoms Co

3-4yrs+
London - Exciting new UK Counsel role with major telecoms co. Working closely with management & advising on full range of regulatory, interconnect & corporate matters.

Perhaps you have not yet considered making your first move but are not completely happy in the firm where you trained. We spend a lot of time talking to people in exactly the same position as you - and offer the chance for you to see if life is better elsewhere. Some of our candidates will end up moving, others will stay put, confident that their present firm is the best place in which to further their career. Whether you decide to move for an improved quality or variety of work, reduced hours, change in location or increase in salary, the vacancies below are just a small sample of our current instructions.

IT

This small City firm really punches above its weight and regularly recruits from top tier City firms. It now seeks a high calibre junior lawyer for a blend of non-contentious IT including outsourcing, software licensing, internet and Year 2000 issues.

PROPERTY KNOW HOW

Part Time
Brand new vacancy to set up know-how role in close-knit property team in 60 partner City firm. Working 2-3 days per week, or perhaps from home, this is an exciting role for a lawyer 4-5yrs ppe to move away from low-earning work.

CORPORATE

1-2yrs
Would you like to follow in the tracks of other assistants who have moved from major City firms to work in this friendly bottom practice? Our client seeks a junior corporate lawyer to join its 8 partner team undertaking a varied workload. Competitive salary.

MAJOR PROJECT LITIGATION

1-5yrs
We have a number of vacancies for top quality litigators to specialise in major project litigation. Although a background in construction or technology litigation would be advantageous this is not essential. International workload.

IT/TELECOMS

2yrs+
This popular medium-sized City firm offers a unique environment where you will be closely involved with your client's business on an ongoing basis. The IT/telecoms group is particularly strong and is looking for a lawyer with IT experience but not necessarily a telecoms background.

CORP. KNOW HOW

Full/Part time
Unusually broad and interesting role at this medium-sized City firm. Flexible role includes general know-how, research, marketing and design & implementation of training. In addition to strong corporate experience, an outgoing personality and commercial approach are vital.

NQ-2yrs

The Brussels office of this very popular City firm has seen a marked increase in its workload recently and wishes to expand by recruiting two new members to its close knit and supportive team. Competition/trade and regulatory work of the highest quality is on offer.

PATENTS

4yrs+
The City office of this national firm has a reputation for handling some of the most high profile IP work. You will have the opportunity to undertake an unusually wide variety of work, dealing with both contentious and non-contentious matters. Marketing skills are also welcomed.

PRIVATE CLIENT/TAXATION

2-5yrs
This long established 16 partner City firm has a strong practice handling the development and protection of assets for high net worth individuals. A new member of the team is sought with particular expertise in taxation. You will enjoy an unrivalled reputation and congenial environment.

EMPLOYMENT

2-4yrs
If you handle a mix of contentious and non-contentious work and would like a 'quality of life' move, which enables you to maintain your quality of work, the opportunity to join this firm should not pass you by. City location, refreshing culture & a negligible amount of corporate support work.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

NQ-2yrs
Everybody wants to work for this West End media practice, which now has a rare opening for a junior lawyer in its litigation department. You will handle a broad blend of work including media, contracts, IP, defamation & property.



GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

0171 430 1711

it

THE NATIONAL LEGAL OFFICE & LEGAL SERVICES EXHIBITION

NEC, BIRMINGHAM
16TH - 18TH MARCH 1999

Tues 10 am - 6 pm, Weds 10 am - 6 pm,
Thurs 10 am - 4 pm,

Around 150 exhibitors covering all areas of legal products and services will be at the show ready to demonstrate how their products and services can help improve your legal office productivity and efficiency.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S EVENT OF THE YEAR

FOR FREE TICKETS TELEPHONE 0117 907 1000

website: <http://www.nwe.co.uk>

GAZETTE

DUNKIN' DONUTS

THE FINEST

BALLANTINE'S FINEST

Baskin-Robbins

ICE CREAM

BEEFEATER

TEQUILA

BIG

Jack & Marie

Commercial Lawyer

Allied Domecq is one of the top 300 companies in the world. Owner of Beefeater, Teacher's, Canadian Club, Connoisseur, Victoria Wine, Euxine, Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins. Impressive names. And a progressive approach to careers.

Within our Spirits & Wine business, in this newly created post, you'll have every opportunity to develop the influence of our legal team. In particular, you'll be part of a working party dedicated to creating a globalised legal support service for the company.

Your remit will include providing a more comprehensive service to our Asia Pacific and European operations - excluding Spain. We'll also look to you to increase the emphasis on customer service, and, in doing so, add significant value to the business.

A UK qualified solicitor, you must have at least 5 years' PQE. You'll need commercial experience, gained in a domestic and international environment. What's more, you should also be an objective individual who can listen and persuade, as well as develop innovative ideas and approaches. Linguistic ability and a willingness to travel are both essential. Highly motivated? Results-orientated? Clear potential for longer-term career progression? The ability to establish your value quickly?

Join us.



ALLIED DOMECQ

For further details on Allied Domecq, please contact our web-site via <http://www.allieddomecq.com>

To apply, please send your CV with current salary details to Daniel Richards, K/F Selection, 252 Regent Street, London W1R 6HL, quoting ref: 903257/01.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

WILMER CUTLER & PICKERING

International Litigation / Arbitration

1 - 4 YEARS' PQE

As part of the continuing growth of its international dispute resolution practice in London, Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is seeking first class lawyers with commercial litigation and/or arbitration experience.

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is an international law firm based in Washington with a pre-eminent reputation across a range of practice areas. It has one of the leading international arbitration practices in London. It is continuing to expand that practice and extending it further into the field of commercial litigation.

Successful candidates will have excellent academic qualifications and litigation experience, preferably gained at a leading City firm. They will be assured of high quality, challenging work in a friendly, collegial atmosphere, with a premium remuneration package and good career prospects.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Yvonne Smyth or Fiona Bennett on 0171 523 1240 (evenings and weekends 0171 359 5937) or write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Fax on 0171 523 3839. E-mail yvonne.smyth@zaragroup.com



London - overseas - industry

Researchers / writers

Research on Chambers Directory is well underway, and yet again we have an excellent team. They are talking to lawyers and clients about trends in the profession and the merits of the various law firms. But the research keeps expanding. We need more researchers to do it. If you're free for a few months and would like a taste of legal publishing - and a birds-eye view of the legal profession - you might enjoy being on our research team. Your main task will be to gauge the opinion of clients and leading practitioners about their colleagues and competitors and to write up the collective views. This requires insight, objectivity and a sense of responsibility. Your findings will affect lawyers' gradings in the tables we publish, and these tables are taken seriously by clients. They can influence the development of a firm's practice. Our research, therefore, needs to be carried out with great care. If you would like to discuss the work of a researcher, please telephone the directory's editor, Reena SenGupta, on 0171 606 1300.

Michael Chambers

Our legal directory is available at £45 from Balclos.

Tel: 01403 710971

Industry

IP/IT lawyer Herts
Solicitor with approx 4 years' ppe for legal department of major consumer goods company. Work includes IT, media and IP issues, EU matters and general commercial law. Excellent benefits package.

Financial services London
Solicitor with approx 10 years' experience of leasing and financial services to join high calibre legal department of fast growing services company.

Junior commercial London
Junior lawyer 0-2 years' ppe for broad commercial role in insurance company including employment, EU and competition and litigation. French language skills an advantage.

London & Overseas

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for 25 years and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Commercial litigation City
Full service medium-sized firm with strong litigation practice seeks 1-2 year qualified solicitor for general caseload to include all forms of national and international disputes.

Competition partner/team US firm
Expanding London office of leading US firm seeks competition partner/team. Firm represents a breadth of major industrial corporations including large percentage of Fortune 500 companies.

International corporate partner City
London office of US firm with established full-service capability seeks senior solicitor with first-rate City credentials to service major US clients investing in Europe. £500-800,000

Saville House, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL
Tel: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 600 1793
e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis, Deborah Kirkman, Stuart Morton

Commercial litigator Herts
Electronics company seeks lawyer c. 2 years' ppe to handle a mixed caseload including contractual, tortious, IP and employment matters. Expect of advocacy at ET's useful.

Legal adviser West End
Solicitor with 4-5 years' general comm experience to join est leg dept of major manufacturing co. Some international exposure. Dynamic personality and sense of humour essential.

Engineering lawyer Midlands
Commercial lawyer with min 5 years' experience for key operating division of major engineering group. Sound comm acumen and awareness and scope of handling agreements in electrical/mechanical engineering sector preferred.

David Woolfson, Paul Thomas, Emma Ridley

Property litigation City
Premier litigation practice with highly respected stand alone property dept, seeks 1-2 year qualified solicitor to join est leg dept of major manufacturing co. Some international exposure. Dynamic personality and sense of humour essential.

Company/commercial Central London
Leading media firm offers newly qualified solicitor broad spread of company/commercial work plus in-house secondment with exciting client. Acquisitions, disposals, commercial agreements.

Commercial property Professional support
Leading, national firm, highly regarded in the field, seeks property solicitor with at least 4 years' ppe for professional support role including new starters, marketing, training.

Insolvency litigation Herts
Excellent opportunity to work within a team headed by a LIP which is inundated with work from 'Big 6' firms, LIP connections and banking department referrals. Suit ambitious solicitor c. 1-5 years' ppe.

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

Influence the future of the investment industry

Legal Adviser

We are seeking a confident, articulate team player to provide legal support to our policy-makers and front-line supervisory teams. Focusing primarily on markets, exchanges and clearing houses, you will monitor, identify and research a wide, complex range of legal issues, producing advice and recommendations that will have a major bearing on our work.

To be considered you should be legally qualified (e.g. be a solicitor/barrister), have experience of financial services law or a related area of law such as corporate finance, or have regulatory experience from an investment exchange, clearing house or investment bank or broker. In addition you should have strong advisory, research and analytical

skills. This should be matched by fluent writing skills and by an innovative, pragmatic approach.

In return we can offer you broad industry exposure, as well as the opportunity to become an expert in this rapidly developing area of our work. You will also have a key role to play in shaping the regulatory framework - as a valued adviser to our senior managers. This position also offers first-rate prospects, training and rewards.

For an application form please telephone 0171 269 6204 quoting reference BA360.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 17th March 1999.



Financial Services Authority

INDUSTRY MARCHING ON

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TWO POSITIONS

Unusually we have two genuinely rare opportunities for commercial property lawyers to make their first move in-house. Both these roles demand between 2-4 years' ppe gained in a leading property department/property company and the role in work in a front-line transactional role. In return, as a young lawyer in a thriving commercial team, you will be given the chance to make your mark in a dynamic business that offers fantastic long-term rewards. (Ref. 26900)

RISK MANAGEMENT/COMPLIANCE C£100,000

This leading financial services company is creating a senior management role for someone with heavyweight compliance experience in the retail (as opposed to investment banking) sector. You will act as the bridge between the global operational compliance teams and management, to identify risk management issues that affect the whole group. This will be a key appointment for the group and the role will require gravitas as well as technical expertise. (Ref. 25824)

SECURITISATIONS

Pre-eminent investment bank is looking for a securities lawyer with a minimum of five years' post qualified experience (some of which will preferably have been gained in the US) to join its cutting-edge transaction team. As an integrated member of a group that includes bankers and lawyers you will get front-line commercial exposure in a fast-paced environment. The role will require stamina but the rewards will be exceptional. (Ref. 25911)

WORKS - GEN COMM

This established UK insurer with a highly regarded reputation and market leading products seeks a 1-5 year qualified lawyer to assist its General Counsel and perform a wide-ranging commercial role. With a career path in prospect and based at an attractive greenfield site with its own sporting amenities, this is an attractive opportunity for a junior lawyer considering the in-house alternative. (Ref. 25702)

COMPETITIVE

This established UK insurer with a highly regarded reputation and market leading products seeks a 1-5 year qualified lawyer to assist its General Counsel and perform a wide-ranging commercial role. With a career path in prospect and based at an attractive greenfield site with its own sporting amenities, this is an attractive opportunity for a junior lawyer considering the in-house alternative. (Ref. 25702)

DIRECTOR LEGAL SERVICES £20,000 + BENS

An exceptional role for a lawyer with 5-7 years' qualified company/commercial experience (gained in a City firm and in-house). As head of a four strong legal team you will be managing junior lawyers as well as spearheading the acquisition/merger programme, and developing the business in new territories. You will also be dealing with commercial issues including high-volume, world-wide lease transactions. (Ref. 26900)

CO/CO

A highly exciting and unusual opening within a major multinational corporation in the leisure industry. They are looking for a company/commercial lawyer with at least 4 years' ppe to deal with all legal issues arising out of the development of their holiday, ownership business in Europe. If you are a fast learner, dynamic and a genuine team player looking for a new challenge, then this would be a great opportunity. European language skills an advantage. (Ref. 25911)

FROM £50,000 + BENS

A rare opportunity has been created for a solicitor at the 1-5 year level with strong inter-personal and commercial skills. You will handle commercial agreements for both the retail and wholesale markets and other commercial contracts including service agreements and joint ventures. You must have a reputation for confidence and the ability to apply your technical expertise practically. Excellent package on offer including car. (Ref. 25173)

COMMERCIAL - YORKSHIRE EXCELLENT ++

A rare opportunity has been created for a solicitor at the 1-5 year level with strong inter-personal and commercial skills. You will handle commercial agreements for both the retail and wholesale markets and other commercial contracts including service agreements and joint ventures. You must have a reputation for confidence and the ability to apply your technical expertise practically. Excellent package on offer including car. (Ref. 25173)

COMMERCIAL/REGULATORY NORTH WEST

One of the UK's best known financial institutions seeks a 2-5 year qualified commercial lawyer to join the existing team as the No. 2. Ideally, you will have some compliance and regulatory experience and you can expect plenty of exposure to clients and front line responsibility from the outset. An attractive remuneration package is on offer. (Ref. 25199)

For further information please contact Elizabeth Williams or Lizzie Orange on 0171 523 1250 (0171 394 8074 evenings/weekends). E-mail elizabeth.williams@zaragroup.com Alternatively please write to ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. For North vacancies contact Morwenna Lewis on 0161 238 4908 (evenings/weekends 0161 684 9556) Please write to ZMB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LE Confidential fax 0161 238 4910. E-mail morwenna.lewis@zaragroup.com



London Manchester Leeds Sydney New York Toronto Vancouver Calgary

LEGAL ADVISERS

Our client is the Monégasque services company of an international group whose main business is refining and marketing oil. It operates in fifteen countries in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.

Monaco

communication (except at local levels) is conducted in English.

As a result of continuing business expansion, it now seeks to recruit two lawyers, each with up to three years' post-qualification experience to join the group's growing legal department. Complete fluency in at least one other European language (with a preference for Italian) is required as the positions will involve providing legal advice around the group. However, all intra-group

Successful candidates should be UK qualified. They should be able to demonstrate a good commercial background and a high level of ambition and drive, as well as initiative and the ability to work both individually and in a team environment. Some experience of intellectual property would be a distinct advantage and, although experience of the oil industry is not a pre-requisite, it is preferable. In addition, a keen sense of humour is essential! An excellent salary and benefits package will be offered.

Interviews for these roles will take place in London.

For details, please contact Sonya Rayner or Morwenna Lewis or send them a copy of your CV. You can e-mail them at sonyarayner@chambersrecruitment.co.uk.



23 LONG LANE, LONDON EC1A 9HL TELEPHONE: (0171) 606 8844 FAX: (0171) 600 1793

LATE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

CAPITAL MARKETS

To £50,000
There can probably be few better times than this Top 10 City practice to carry out some of the most innovative and exciting international capital markets work. This is genuinely an unusual opportunity for a lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe to go all the way to the top. Ref 1740728

INTERNATIONAL TAX PLANNING

To £55,000
This role is one for a lawyer who wants to work in a more entrepreneurial environment - you will take a consultative role, dealing in the main with banks and you must have a creative brain. You will certainly have a strong interest in international tax planning if you do not have experience and be 0-4 years' ppe. Ref 1760007

NON CONTENTIOUS CONSTRUCTION

To £60,000
If you have 0-4 years' ppe and understand and have enthusiasm for the construction industry, this could be the role for you. A very varied client list of top calibre awaits you, as well as the opportunity to work directly with the partner who is responsible for the group. Ref 174131

LITIGATION

To £58,000
This firm offers a wide ranging litigation practice - domestic and international arbitration, class actions, insolvency, fraud, as well as general commercial litigation - as well as a substantial team. All this yours if you have 2-4 years' litigation experience from a Top 10 firm. Ref 1744882

CO/CO - SPANISH

To £60,000
This blue-chip City firm with a global reputation in the corporate arena is looking to hire a UK qualified corporate lawyer with, ideally, 2-5 years' ppe to undertake a teaming workload with a Latin American focus. Fluent, or very good, Spanish is a pre-requisite. Ref 1760306

US PROJECT FINANCE

To £26,000
Leading US firm is seeking to hire project finance lawyers with 6-8 years' ppe from a leading City firm. The ideal candidate will be US/UK/Indian qualified with a demonstrated track record in client development. Lender related experience vital as is the willingness to spend time overseas. Ref 1761051

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £38,000
You do not have to join the big boys for quality international corporate work. This dynamic smaller firm will give a newly qualified corporate/commercial lawyer with French language skills the chance to work on some international mainstream corporate work. Ref 1738276

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £30,000
You have a strong co/co background and a client friendly approach with 3-5 years' experience. What this firm is able to offer you is early partnership, a loyal and friendly team with an even mix in work between domestic and international matters, and an international practice that is working. Ref 1727350

IT/TELECOMS

To £180,000
The London office of this major US firm has the clients and is now bringing in the lawyers to create a quality IT/Telecoms practice to compete with the top city firms. High calibre IT/Telecoms lawyers with 2-5 years' ppe will find an unusually attractive package on offer. Ref 1761303

CORPORATE FINANCE - GULF

To £20,000 package
Tired of London? Then spice up your life by relocating to the Gulf. This City firm is one of the key players in the Gulf and is now looking to recruit additional corporate and finance lawyers. This is an excellent opportunity for lawyers with between 1-5 years' ppe and a sense of adventure. Ref 1761886

LITIGATION PSL

To £18,000
This top 10 City firm is now looking to bring in a litigation professional support lawyer. You could be either an existing PSL or a fee earner with at least 2 years' ppe who wants to get away from tea earning and move into areas such as training, lecturing and writing articles. Ref 1761886

TAX

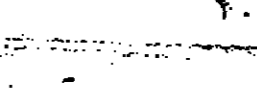
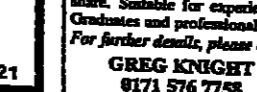
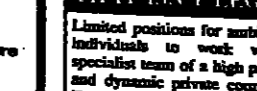
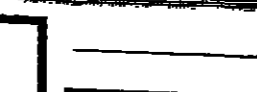
To £20,000
The London office of this top US firm can offer top 5 quality work in a more congenial and better paid environment. As a corporate tax lawyer with 0-4 years' ppe you will advise on a wide range of transactions, such as M&A, structured finance and telecoms. Ref 1761033

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gavin Sharpe, Sarah David or Nick Shilton (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 6082 (0171 794 8188 or 0111 535515 evenings) or write to them at QD Legal.

e-mail: sharpe@qdggroup.co.uk shilton@qdggroup.co.uk

QD Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 405 6082
Confidential fax: 0171 831 8394
Web: www.qdggroup.com

London Birmingham Bristol Leeds Manchester Paris Frankfurt Köln Rotterdam Hong Kong Singapore
New York Washington DC Chicago Los Angeles Atlanta Toronto Vancouver Sydney Melbourne Johannesburg



PARALEGALS

LIB/LPC

Experience in the following areas Litigation Fraud, Def. PI, IP/Media (preferably with LIA). Seeking paralegal work! For more info: Phone/fax CV

LA Search & Selection

(T) 0171-610 6868
(F) 0171-610 6870

WOOLF IN ACTION

BY DAVID BARNARD AND 33 BEDFORD ROW

All you need to know about the new civil procedure reforms and the future funding of civil litigation in a one day course.

Lectures at twelve venues from 6 to 27 March
See this week's chapter on our book on the internet at www.templecity.co.uk/woolf

To book phone 0171 242 6476 or 01424 212021

TRY A CAREER THAT ISN'T LEGAL

Limited positions for ambitious individuals to work within specialist team of a high profile and dynamic private company. Full training with potential for senior management & profit share. Suitable for experienced graduates and professionals. For further details, please call:

GREG KNIGHT
0171 576 7758

مكتبة الزميل

LAW

Television formats and copyright protection

Who owns One Man and His Dog? Peter McNerney and David Rose assess the rules

The BBC's decision to drop *One Man and His Dog* has raised hackles among the programme's devoted viewers and prompted several broadcasters, including BSkyB and Border Television, to explore the possibility of developing their own version.

To add to the controversy, the BBC announced that it owns the rights to the programme's format, which many might assume to be in the public domain. Consequently, any third party contemplating a programme with an identical or similar format would be obliged to pay the BBC.

Television format rights are an established commodity, but they are not recognised as such in English law. Significantly, copyright cannot protect concepts or ideas *per se*. It is only when they are expressed in a permanent form, for example in committing the format to writing or developing unique props or sets, that they can be given copyright protection as artistic works. Even if a format is expressed in writing, it can be difficult to protect by copyright unless it is scripted or at least capable of performance without reference to additional materials.

The late Hughie Green's failure to establish that the format of *Opportunity Knocks* was protected by copyright in New Zealand is often cited. Nor was he able to prove that there had been any passing-off because his show had never been seen in that country.

By contrast, where scripts are integral to the format, as with sitcoms and dramas, copyright will, in most cases, provide sufficient protection because it would be difficult to lift the storylines without infringing copyright in the scripts. Accordingly, when Granada decided to sell the format to its series *Cracker*, it licensed the right to use all its elements for the production of a new version which was broadcast worldwide as *Fitz*.

In the absence of copyright protection, broadcasters can protect format rights by other means. A confidentiality agreement will give some protection to a format creator, although



Robin Page and friend: can any television company run with the format of the BBC series he presents?

important players are unwilling to sign such documents.

In the case of established formats, broadcasters can rely on the law of passing-off if they can prove that the viewing public is confused into believing that the new show is, in fact, the old show or has been licensed by the original owner. Passing-off is more likely where the stars, sets and name of the original programme have been reproduced intact.

The title of any programme can be protected as a registered trademark, a policy the BBC has adopted for some of its popular shows, such as *Radio 4's Just a Minute*.

Efforts have been made to give greater protection to format rights. In 1996 the Department of Trade and Industry issued a consultative paper on the subject which met limited interest. One of the principal concerns was that the UK is a net importer of formats and therefore the new protections were likely to benefit overseas producers and broadcasters rather than the domestic industry. Indeed, the legal position of format owners can be said to have worsened as a result of a recent case in which the owner of an original film entitled *Joy* featuring an innovative "jump-editing" technique was

unable to prevent an advertising agency from adopting a similar approach for its Guinness commercial.

Whether the BBC can do anything to prevent other television broadcasters from making a programme about sheepdog trials will depend on the BBC's existing legal rights and not any format rights as such. If no such rights exist, then the commercial rate for the format, at least from a legal point of view, is zero.

● The authors are a partner and solicitor respectively at the City law firm of SJ Berwin & Co.

Lessons of Lawrence

An open letter to the Prime Minister

The inquiry and the report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence make uncomfortable reading. As a lawyer and an ardent campaigner for equal rights, I, as much as anyone, wish to see the system vindicated and show that, in the fullness of time, the system works for all.

However, the way in which the murder investigation of Stephen Lawrence was handled has severely undermined the confidence in our justice system and shaken public trust in the police. The facts do not reveal a reason to celebrate any victories. The inquiry report identifies myriad "fundamental errors in the investigation" marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and failure of leadership by senior officers.

The implications of the case continue to be felt. Only last week readers of one tabloid newspaper were offered large cash rewards for supplying evidence leading to the conviction of Stephen Lawrence's alleged killers. Is it really acceptable to offer such rewards? Shock tactics of this type serve only to remind us of the depths to which this case has finally brought us.

Given the findings of the report, it is astonishing that it took a new Government to establish the inquiry to examine the failures. We are all indebted to Neville and Doreen Lawrence and their lawyers for their single-minded pursuit of justice against all the odds. They and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to be congratulated for taking the bold and courageous step to establish this inquiry. However, the challenge now facing you, Prime Minister, is to ensure that the lessons learnt are enduring ones and that the political will to tackle racism is sustained.

The investigation of the murder and the treatment of the Lawrence family were clear denials of their legitimate rights at a tragic time. This led to the great injustice of not recognising that the Lawrence family were themselves victims. There was a basic failure to recognise that racism is unacceptable behaviour in any domain — least of all in an institution intended to serve the public, regardless of ethnic credentials.

Many police officers responsible have escaped disciplinary actions because of technicalities and we are informed that they are now beyond reach. The case against those suspected of this heinous crime was never properly prepared and the suspects — other than in the failed private prosecution — continue to face trial only by media. In addition, Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and senior officers failed soci-

ety as a whole by not using the internal inquiries to send a message against racism. They missed a golden opportunity to restore confidence in an institution so reliant on the trust of the general public to remain effective.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner has decided to complete his term of office and use it to tackle racism in his force. His task is a difficult one. His challenge now is to restore both his personal credibility and the eroded reputation of his force on these issues within his remaining time in office. The need for him to deliver on both of these should not be underestimated.

This sad case is a classic example of Britain's failure to build equality into the mainstream culture of one of our most important institutions: the police. Yet the police are not alone in this. The report's definition of institutional racism is welcome, as is the acknowledgement that it exists within many of this country's powerful organisations.

One of my past roles as the European Commission's representative on racism and xenophobia showed me that Britain has been in the lead on race relations compared with the Continent. The record has been tarnished. It is now up to you, Mr Blair, to put it right. You have a reputation for boldness and "joined-up" thinking. I urge

you to use both to tackle racism, not just within the police, but in all our institutions, whether it be education, welfare, the NHS or Whitehall.

Your package of proposals of change must not be a superficial one restricted to changes in the law. I know from my five years' experience at the Equal Opportunities Commission that what really needs to change is the cultural attitude. This can be done only by a combination of leadership, sustained commitment from the top, training and retraining, regular monitoring coupled with clear, decisive and repeated disciplinary action to establish and maintain racial equality as a core value.

Above all, those in these institutions must now listen and truly understand what it means to be denied your rights or opportunities just because you are a different colour.

Only then can Britain aspire again to be a beacon on race equality and can you be remembered as a Prime Minister who truly made Britain a fairer, more equal society.

● The author formerly chaired the Equal Opportunities Commission and was the European Commission's representative on racism and xenophobia, 1994-97. She is now deputy vice-president of the Law Society, but the views expressed here are her own.



KAMLESH BAHL

Legal DIARY

WHO will take over as the top family law judge in England and Wales when Sir Stephen Brown retires in September? Bets are already being laid for the appointment, which could see a woman holding the most senior judicial post yet. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss is the most senior of the contenders, who include Lords Justices Swinton Thomas, Ward and Thorpe.

Of course, the choice could come from outside the Family Division judges. One such name being bandied about is Lord Falconer of Thorornton, although sources close to the Lord Chancellor suggest that the Dome Minister remains an outsider for this judicial post.

□ Olswang, the media law firm that represented nearly all the national newspapers in their fight against Jack Straw's injunction, may find itself in court again — in pursuit of damages for the loss suffered by *The Sunday Telegraph*, which had to remove the story from later editions. Julia Palca, who led Olswang's team, says the Home Secretary's action was pointless, because "the matter was already in the public domain". Mr Straw might be forced to justify on public interest grounds why he sought the injunction.

□ The wheels of justice by tradition grind slowly. But the latest reform should

enter the record books for legal delays. The Lord Chancellor's Department has just announced that from April, Knightsbridge Crown Court will be changing its name to Blackfriars Crown Court to reflect its present location around the corner from Harrods? Six years ago.

□ City law firms have come out in favour of one-stop shopping. The City of London Law Society has replied in its submission to the Law Society consultation exercise that rules should be relaxed so that law firms can become subsidiaries of other professional-services firms, such as accountants.

□ How can people find a good divorce lawyer? Hard on the heels of the Law Society's new family law panel of specialist solicitors comes another scheme, this time from the Solicitors' Family Law Association. More than 1,300 lawyers have applied to join and the first accredited solicitors will be named in July.

□ Solicitors are facing demands for tax they have already paid because the Inland Revenue is swamped with paperwork generated by the January 31 self-assessment deadline, says the accountancy firm Smith & Williamson. Colin Ives, a

partner, says that many tax statements sent out this week reflect underpayments although tax has been fully paid. "Watch out," he adds, "for the Revenue trying to impose non-negotiable interest penalties on any tax deemed not to have been held by it after this month."

□ A barrister specialising in informational technology work at the law firm Tario Lyons has called on the Government to give businesses similar legislative protection to that enacted in Australia. A Millennium Compliance Bill is before Parliament, but without government backing, he says, it won't get far. "Every UK business could be a victim of year 2000 litigation instigated by US companies, yet they are being denied a similar remedy against US companies."

□ Judgments of the superior courts in Scotland will be put on the Internet, thanks to lobbying from the Society for Computers and the Law. The society's John Sibbald says that at last this will give "free access to this area of the law" and give the Scottish legal system a chance to compete in the global market for legal services.

□ The Solicitors Pro Bono Group has won a coup: it has persuaded the Attorney-General to encourage government lawyers to take up *pro bono* work. Keen lawyers will be put in touch with appropriate agencies. Details: 0171-929 5601

KEMP
& CO

a law firm for
the .com world

If you

- are 4-7 years qualified
- share our vision that IT is the area of legal practice to be in
- want to be part of a focused, dynamic, creative, open team
- want a major role as a partner in a successful, young practice
- want to help shape our commercial, corporate, IP litigation or employment practice areas

log on to our website at www.comlegal.com and take
a look at our review of 1998 and goals for 1999

Alternatively please contact William Cook or Sarah Sharpe on 0171 405 6062 (0181 780 0682 evening/weekends) at QD Legal.
Email: ccokew@qdggroup.co.uk. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394

LONDON - PARTNERS

CORPORATE TAX

To £250,000

Too often senior tax lawyers have to make a choice between finance and corporate support work — they don't have the freedom to build a department based on all aspects of their experience. This focused medium-sized firm sees matters differently. Their ideal new partner will be able to service the needs of blue-chip investor clients as well as advise on offshore planning and cross-border transactions. If you would like to be part of a partnership which really values your full expertise, this is your opportunity.

CONSTRUCTION

£200,000 Plus

There is a great deal of talk in London at the moment about designated Construction units and blue chip contractor client bases. Every Construction lawyer knows that in the real world it is extremely difficult for a top rank firm to attract heavyweight construction clients who are prepared to pay City rates. This London office of a renowned partnership has a forward thinking policy and can attract quality work through its national network. The instructions are flowing in and so a partner with a realistic approach to the value of a construction practice would be a welcome addition to the team.

INSOLVENCY

To £250,000

Most firms have an insolvency partner on their recruitment wish list but few actually have the depth of practice to provide a pool of contentious instructions for an individual with the right range of skills. Personal contacts are, of course, important but what matters most is the ability to fit with a busy international partnership with successful offices in every corner of the globe and enjoying a very close knit culture in the London office. The immediate and long term prospects are unparalleled for an associate or partner with a cosmopolitan outlook and top rate experience.

VENTURE CAPITAL PARTNER/TEAM

£200,000 - £300,000

It's very rare that a firm can excite accolades from both clients and fellow lawyers but this practice has recently dominated the venture capital headlines. Everything is in place for spectacular continued growth — the corporate finance/IFA support, the advice expertise in cash hungry sectors, the strong client base. This partnership appreciates that venture capital investments will boom in the next century, especially in IT and pharmaceuticals, and it knows it will find the right lawyers to continue to lead the market.

PFI

£50,000 - £250,000

Most London practices talk of their alleged strength in projects but few actually have the depth of practice to provide a pool of contentious instructions for an individual with the right range of skills. Personal contacts are, of course, important but what matters most is the ability to fit with a busy international partnership with successful offices in every corner of the globe and enjoying a very close knit culture in the London office. The immediate and long term prospects are unparalleled for an associate or partner with a cosmopolitan outlook and top rate experience.

IT/TELECOMS

£200,000+

When will you be the right millennium bug struck? You could be the very heart of a happy hi-tech world within a partnership which does not see IT lawyers as a necessary evil but rather as the driving force of the practice. Their mission is to continue the growth of this designated area of expertise — and become market leaders both in silicon valley and its European counterparts. If you are a partner associate who shares this vision and has already acted for international clients, this is the right place for you.

COMMERCIAL

£80,000 - £180,000

In a world of over-specialisation, our wide and well-balanced client base is a well known, solid to medium-sized City firm with several core areas known that good lawyers shouldn't be pigeon holed. With a strong but perhaps overshadowed commercial department, the partnership is in full support of this strategic recruitment, and is keen to meet sound and like-minded partners who can demonstrate their ability to satisfy clients. Handling commercial contracts, sales and purchases, joint ventures will just be some of your skills that will be recognised and appreciated.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

To £200,000

With an impressive and diverse client base of primary, secondary and foreign banks, funds and other financial institutions, our City-based client is poised for the premier league. Its existing practice is increasingly involved in first-line advice on innovative new products. In addition to handling transactional compliance, and is well placed to take advantage of the changing regulatory framework. There is enormous potential — and support — from our other areas of the firm, and you will enjoy career development in a top team.

EJ • LEGAL

STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
ANITA GOVIL, SENIOR RECRUITMENT
SPECIALIST AT
EJ • LEGAL
44-45 CHANCERY LANE
LONDON WC2A 1JH
TELEPHONE +44 (0)21 404 6660
FAX +44 (0)21 404 6661
EMAIL info@ejlegal.com





Browne Jacobson

solicitors

Nottingham • London • Paris

"Browne Jacobson has muscled itself into a premier position by lifting itself into bigger ticket work". Legal 500 1998.

The past five years have seen Browne Jacobson enjoy spectacular corporate success both in the UK and abroad. We have been voted the leading East Midlands corporate finance firm by the region's accountants, bankers and venture capitalists for the past four years. This year we were the only law firm in the whole of the Midlands to have two corporate lawyers placed in the top five*. Fee income increasing by 25% year on year for the past three years has allowed us to adopt a policy of substantial investment. Our new Birmingham office opens in April 1999.

However, our sphere of operations is not limited to the Midlands. Since the opening of our London office in 1994 and subsequent client gains in the UK and Europe, we have seen significant growth in cross-border transactional work. Essential to future expansion it has been the catalyst for a number of high profile deals in the past twelve months.

With a number of outstanding key appointments at various levels this is an exciting time to be joining us. In line with our strategic growth plans we are actively seeking individuals and teams who can combine true legal excellence with more than the usual levels of determination.

* Finance Midlands Dealmakers Awards 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995

NATIONWIDE APPOINTMENTS

SENIOR FRENCH COMMERCIAL

London - To Partner

Fluent business French is essential for this key appointment. Dealing principally with our major French clients, the work will encompass the full range of company commercial matters. This position offers substantial career prospects.

CORPORATE

London and Nottingham - All Levels

Across the UK and Europe our corporate teams have a renowned reputation for their strength in depth. Working on flotations and new issues, mergers, acquisitions and disposals, MBOs and MBIs and venture and development capital transactions, we have key vacancies at a number of levels.

SENIOR TAX & FINANCIAL PLANNING

Nottingham - To Partner

Based within the specialist Tax & Financial Planning Department this appointment, dealing with high value, high profile issues for wealthy individuals and professional trustees, is of paramount importance to the development of the team.

PENSIONS & BENEFITS LAWYER

Nottingham - To Partner

Our Unit focuses on advising on all aspects of occupational pension schemes. Corporate support work will also be an important part of the position together with advising employers, trustees and insolvency practitioners.

BANKING

Nottingham - All Levels

Prior experience at all levels is needed to manage these heavyweight caseloads. Acting on loan facilities to £150m, we have undertaken a significant amount of finance work both in the UK and overseas. This is high profile work.

COMMERCIAL

Nottingham and London - All Levels

Joining a discreet team, you would advise on the full range of commercial matters including general regulation and compliance, competition law, joint ventures, agency and distribution arrangements and project agreements (including PFI). Fluent French is an advantage.

If you would feel comfortable working in a truly high powered and progressive environment, then contact our retained recruitment consultants James Barrow (Nottingham & Birmingham) on 0121 633 0010 or Tracey Bradbury (London) on 0171 404 4646 or write to them at HW Daniels Bates Legal, 4th Floor, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. E-mail: james.barrow@hwgroup.com; internet: www.hwgroup.com

HW DANIELS BATES

LEGAL RECRUITMENT



BIRMINGHAM • EDINBURGH • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER

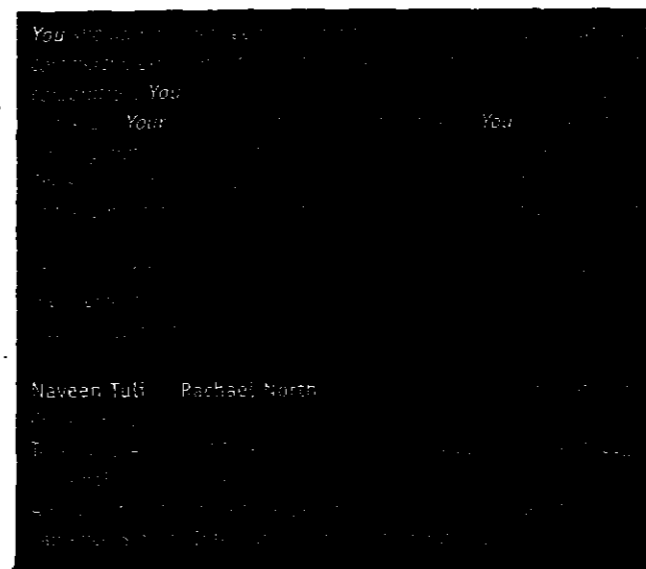


We're looking for the **best** legal minds to join the world's fastest growing industry

GTS Carrier Services is a division of the \$5 billion Global TeleSystems Group (GTSG: Nasdaq and Easdaq), the leading independent telecommunications provider to businesses and carriers across Europe. The company operates Europe's largest cross-border broadband fibre optic network and is rapidly expanding to offer services in 50 cities and 20 countries by the end of 2000.

As the business expands so do career opportunities. Positions for highly skilled, business oriented lawyers to help guide the company as it moves ahead are now available. These pan-European positions are initially based in the company's Brussels offices with opportunities to relocate to London after approximately one year.

These positions will appeal to lawyers who can operate in an extremely fast moving environment. The workload will be broad. It will range from mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures and distribution agreements to interconnection, IT and EU competition law issues. You will work for a market leader within the world's fastest growing industry and you will work with some of the brightest people in the industry. You must have the maturity and confidence to draft, negotiate and often lead commercial projects. These involve internal and external interaction at the highest management levels.



First European Legal Counsel

Paris/London

habitat

Since our first store opened in 1964, the name Habitat has been synonymous with contemporary, innovative design. Today, some 35 years later and with a Group turnover in excess of £300m, we are at the forefront of the international home furnishings market with operations in the UK, France, Italy, Germany and Spain together with franchises in a further 8 countries worldwide. We are now entering an exciting new development phase which has created a unique and challenging opportunity for a European lawyer to join us either in Paris or London.

In this new and high profile position, you will be liaising closely with senior management and the operations teams across all areas of our international business. Taking responsibility for an extremely broad range of legal issues, you must possess a demonstrable grasp of business priorities, along with endless reserves of initiative and flexibility. Your European language skills will be a distinct advantage and fluency in French is essential.

Qualified in any major European jurisdiction, you will have a minimum of 4 years' post qualification experience gained either in a reputable firm or in industry. The nature of the work dictates that broad based company commercial experience would be most appropriate, although you will also be required to advise on intellectual property, company secretarial and real property issues as they arise.

So, if you can deliver the same high level of service, quality and flair that we deliver to our customers and are ready to take on the challenge to create this crucial position, we would like to talk to you.

Interested applicants should forward their CV, covering letter and salary details to Sue Bown, our exclusively retained consultant at the address below. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to The Peachell Group.

The Peachell Group Ltd, Recruitment Consultants.
125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA.
Tel: 0171 404 3155 Fax: 0171 400 0147 Email: sue.bown@peachell.co.uk

The Peachell Group
THE HUMAN DIMENSION

ADR Specialist (salary £neg)

Our client, a financial institution based in London, is looking to recruit a specialist to work on a number of ADR projects. The ideal candidate will have banking dispute resolution experience, gained with a leading law firm, and three years' post-qualification experience.

Please submit your full CV, quoting reference 5363A, to Barkers Response Services, 1st Floor, Wellington House, Queensmere, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1DB. Your details will be forwarded to this client only. Please indicate any company to whom they should not be sent.



SLough • BIRMINGHAM • BRISTOL • EDINBURGH • EXETER
GLASGOW • LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER • NOTTINGHAM



Furnival Chambers invites applications for the vacancy of First Junior Clerk. Salary negotiable.

Please contact in the strictest confidence: Clara Milligan, Chambers Administrator on 0171 405 3232 for an application form and job description.

IRELAND COMMERCIAL LAWYER WATERFORD

Practice with quality client. Commercial clients include property/real estate, health care, education, etc. with public bodies. Excellent opportunity for a lawyer with experience in commercial law, particularly in relation to property/real estate, health care, education, etc. with public bodies. Excellent opportunity for a lawyer with experience in commercial law, particularly in relation to property/real estate, health care, education, etc. with public bodies.

Henry Stephens
Tel: 00 353 51 878888
Fax: 00 353 51 877888
Contact: Mary O'Brien

GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY

£55-£60,000 + BONUS + CAR BIRMINGHAM

This is an exciting time to join a significant international group that is accelerating its evolution into the next millennium. The Chief Executive is seeking to strengthen and build the management team and is taking every opportunity to introduce fresh, innovative thought at every level as a part of a long term structured management succession programme.

The role of Group Company Secretary will incorporate the normal duties relating to Companies House and Stock Exchange reporting and compliance, together with significant Property Management and Insurance matters. You will give advice and guidance in respect of major commercial contracts and you will have a significant

opportunity to participate in the future shaping, culture and style of this group as the current evolutionary process picks up pace.

The successful candidate will be an ACIS/FCIS and most likely an LLB graduate as well. You will have at least 5 years' post qualification experience, mainly gained in a progressive industrial or commercial environment.

Please respond enclosing CV and remuneration to our retained recruitment advisor quoting 1000/GCS.

Wayne Thomas, WT Consulting, Executive Search and Selection, Hamilton Place, 145 Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4LA. Tel: 01628 632717

Fax: 01628 632718 Email: wayne.thomas@lineone.net

WT CONSULTING
EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND SELECTION

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Cheshire



Group Legal Directorate

BNFL is a leading international nuclear service provider. BNFL's Group Legal Directorate provides legal, company secretarial and insurance services to the BNFL Group employing 35 staff including 15 lawyers and 4 company secretarial and insurance managers. A post is currently available in the Group Legal Directorate for a Commercial Lawyer.

- With 6 years PQE
- This post will be part of the Commercial team and will work in the areas of commercial contracts; acquisitions and disposals; and joint ventures
- Salary £32,000 - £39,000 plus bonus

Applicants must have a high degree of drive, determination and enthusiasm, possessing excellent communication and organisation skills and initiative.

Salary is subject to experience and qualifications.

Please send CVs to:

Mrs SM Quint, Head of General Law, Group Legal Directorate, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS

Closing date: 12 March 1999

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

GARFIELD ROBBINS

Capital Markets/ Securities - US Firms
EC Competition

Commercial Property

Asset Finance

Tax - Professional Support Lawyer

Intellectual Property - In-House

Banking - Head Of Department - In-House

Banking/ Corporate - In-House

For your next move, contact Garfield Robbins

www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

PROPERTY
Capital Markets/ Securities - US Firms
EC Competition
Commercial Property
Asset Finance
Tax - Professional Support Lawyer
Intellectual Property - In-House
Banking - Head Of Department - In-House
Banking/ Corporate - In-House

For your next move, contact Garfield Robbins
www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

Access to justice: who pays?

First prize was awarded to Mike Thomas for his essay, below, on how high costs will hinder justice

The cost of civil justice is excessive. In claims of between £12,500 and £25,000, average costs range from 40 to 95 per cent of the claim value and in lower value claims the costs consistently represent more than 100 per cent of the claim value. Disproportionate costs are not only inefficient but also discriminate against those with fewer resources by deterring both the poor and the risk-averse from litigating. Making the ability to vindicate rights dependent upon wealth undermines equality before the law. The withdrawal of legal aid precipitates the problem of how the price of litigation undertaken by those with limited resources is to be paid, or more accurately "underwritten", since costs are payable only on defeat.

Conditional fees are the solution of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to the problem of funding access to justice. Under such an arrangement, the lawyer charges her client only if the case is won, and when cases are won a success fee is charged. However, even with conditional fees, the high costs payable in the event of a loss will continue to deter the poor and risk-averse from litigating.

On losing, the client remains liable for all of her opponent's costs and her own disbursements. The proposals that the client insures against these costs encounters the problem that in a system of high and unpredictable costs insurance is commensurately expensive — it costs £8,000 to insure against bringing medical negligence claims to trial. Introducing a conditional fee system without reducing the cost of litigation merely



Winners: the overall victor was Mike Thomas, pictured between Lord Irvine, and Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and Anthony Grabiner, QC

transfers the problem of excessive costs deterring litigation from plaintiffs to their lawyers and achieves nothing. The success fee's function is to compensate the lawyer for those cases that he loses. In our system, costs are high, relative to the claim, so any success fee recovered, capped at 25 per cent of the award, will be small relative to the costs incurred. If costs equal three quarters of the value of the claim, then a lawyer litigating similar claims must win three quarters of cases to "break even".

Unless the costs of litigating are reduced or lawyers are prepared to earn less, only very strong claims will obtain access to justice. Solicitors have already been advised that "conditional fee medical negligence work should not be touched with a bargepole".

The acid test for conditional fees is not whether they work in cases where the risk of non-recovery is low (and the cost in legal aid has been small), but whether they can bring claims less certain of success into the

system. The bottom line is profit: the attractiveness of a case depends upon the potential fee on success balanced against the risk of non-recovery and the amount of investment necessary in bringing the claim.

In America it seems that claims where success is not guaranteed are litigated but higher damages offer greater rewards. In our system lower awards make uncertain claims less attractive, especially those for smaller sums where the costs are increasingly disproportionate. To increase damages is inefficient, so to facilitate access to justice we must decrease the cost of litigation.

The hourly rate will continue alongside conditional fees. Defence lawyers have obvious difficulties in operating conditional fee arrangements and will continue to work on hourly rates, as in America. Further, a plaintiff's ability to

come to court is fundamental to the rule of law and cannot be dependent upon her finding a lawyer prepared to work on a conditional fee basis. Justice is not concerned only with money; the vindication of rights has its own value.

Only very strong claims will be taken on

Actions where money is not claimed — for example, applications for judicial review or actions to compel due administration of a trust — are less amenable to conditional fees. The costs of litigation must therefore be cut to enable those dependent on hourly fees to obtain access to justice. Conversely, only appropriate procedures must be allowed in order to prevent rich defendants gaining an unfair advantage by investing disproportionate amounts on an hourly rate while the plaintiff's lawyer is trying to work efficiently on a conditional fee basis.

The success fee compensates

lawyers for representing unsuccessful plaintiffs, as the new price of access to justice. It raises the question of who should ultimately pay it. If success fees are deducted from damages, then successful plaintiffs are subsidising access to justice and the system is failing to provide full compensation and to protect rights fully. The Lord Chancellor accordingly proposes that success fees be recoverable as costs from the defendant.

One contrary argument is that if the plaintiff chooses to opt for a conditional fee arrangement through impecuniosity such losses are not recoverable. Nevertheless, the Lord Chancellor's proposal is preferable: wrongs give rise to a duty to make full compensation and the plaintiff should receive this provided he acts reasonably in bringing his action. Those defendants wrongfully denying liability and forcing the plaintiff to litigate to recover his due should have to pay for the steps the plaintiff must reasonably take. Making

wrongdoers pay more also provides a greater deterrent to adhere to the norms of behaviour required by law.

Further, it is better to give plaintiffs full compensation explicitly than to achieve this by distorting the law of damages to take account of irrecoverable costs, as is apparently practice in America.

The expansion of conditional fee arrangements is inevitable and is to be welcomed as it encourages efficiency in order to secure a reasonable return for time invested. However, conditional fees can only succeed in securing access to justice if the costs of litigation are reduced and conditional fees alone will not achieve this.

Until costs are reduced, many good cases will remain insufficiently attractive to be undertaken on a conditional fee basis, with the result that, where the taxpayer is unable to underwrite the price of access to justice, society will suffer the cost of individual rights and collective behavioural norms going unenforced.

Words of praise from Irvine

The big prizes and a special award: Frances Gibb reports

The success of legal reforms in which lawyers can take on most disputes over money or damages on a "no win, no fee" basis depends on the cost of litigation being reduced, the Lord Chancellor said last week.

Lord Irvine of Lairg was quoting from the winning essay in the 1998 Times Law Awards competition, written by Mike Thomas, a student at University College, Oxford. Mr Thomas won the top prize of £3,000 from more than 150 entries in the competition, held with the One Essex Court chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

would mean a new culture, where "proportionality is the key to pursuing just dispute resolution".

The reforms also demonstrated how wider costs than legal aid were involved. "Judges have been working through a demanding programme of training, to enable them to fulfil their unprecedented new case management responsibilities."

Lord Irvine, who presented the prizes at a reception at Lincoln's Inn, headed the judging team, which included Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, Mr Grabiner and Susanna Fitzgerald, a member of his chambers, and Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*.

The topic for essays in this year's competition was *Access to justice — who pays the price?*

The second prize of £2,000 went to Sarah Palin, of West London, who is training to be a barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law, and the third prize of £1,000 to Suzanne Sava, a Romanian student studying law at the London School of Economics.

The three runners-up who received £250 each were David Lewis, Andrea Markham and Alastair Larkin. A special prize of £100 was awarded to Rachel Levene, 17, a pupil at Nottingham High School for Girls.

Lord Irvine led the judging team

GARFIELD ROBBINS

Capital Markets / Securities - US Firm

EC Competition

Commercial Property

Asset Finance

Tax - Professional Support Lawyer

Intellectual Property - In-House

Banking - Head Of Department - In-House

Banking/Corporate - In-House

Visit our web site for more positions www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

WISE COUNSEL

Senior to £400,000

New York based law firm is looking for UK or US qualified senior capital markets/securities lawyers. This international practice is particularly strong in this field (especially emerging markets) and can offer both senior assistants and partners a first rate client base and excellent work, as well as being very financially rewarding. Candidates should be from a top City firm and although languages are not essential they would be an advantage. Ref: T10555.N

1 Year - Senior to £100,000

Major City law firm is looking to expand its well respected Brussels office with the addition of a junior, mid-ranking and senior lawyer. The firm has an excellent reputation in the fields of EC and competition law reflected by its increasing workload and its current need to expand the office. A first rate opportunity for candidates wishing to relocate to Brussels. Ref: T30321.N

Senior circa £160,000

If you are looking for an opportunity to move out of the major firm environment and play a key role in respect of the development of your department then this excellent City practice with a focus on commercial property is an attractive choice. Clients include major property institutions, companies, banks, developers and retailers. A following is necessary as an indication of market standing. Ref: T10273.L

4 Years + PQE £90,000

This is one of the pre-eminent firms in banking and international finance. Specialising in aviation, general finance and leasing (including film finance) the firm boasts a strong market presence in these fields. Increased workload has now resulted in the need for a talented finance lawyer with at least four years PQE. The firm offers the full scope of finance work and financial institutions. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your finance experience on an international scale. Ref: T30238.K

3 Years + PQE £85,000

Major City practice now seeks a key professional support lawyer to co-ordinate a major marketing and internal research role. You will be involved in both internal and external know-how, the creation of presentations, detailed research, as well as training issues and marketing to clients and cross selling within the firm. In return you should have at least three years PQE in tax at a strong practice. You will require a high degree of commercial awareness but in return the opportunity to grow into the role is available. Ref: T30620.H

Blue Chip Organisation, Sussex c£90,000 + excellent benefits

One of the UK's leading Blue Chip companies is looking to appoint a senior IP lawyer. Having gained extensive IP experience the candidate will be responsible for the company's portfolio of trademarks, copyright and patent rights globally. Responsibility will also include pursuing any litigation which should arise. This is an exceptional opportunity for a senior lawyer looking for a new challenge with an outstanding organisation. Languages would also be an advantage. Ref: T30555.E

6 - 8 Years PQE £ excellent + bonus

One of Europe's leading investment banks is looking to expand its derivatives operation and appoint a Head of Department. The candidate should have a first class background covering both capital markets and derivatives (mainly equity) and will have been exposed to bonds, hybrid instruments and warrants. Operating at a strategic level the candidate will be encouraged to undertake a "hands on" approach to their work. Ref: T30221.E

Paris £ excellent + benefits

One of the world's leading financial service organisations is looking to recruit a Head of Department for its Paris office. Managing a team of forward thinking, multi-cultural, first class lawyers, the candidates will have had previous management experience as well as having an outstanding professional and academic background. Experience should include corporate and banking work which should have been gained from either a top five firm anywhere in the world or from a major blue chip organisation. Fluency in French and at least one other language is also essential. Ref: T30222.E

For more information in complete confidence please contact Helen Bryant, Bryn Bowden or Tanya Foster (for private practice) at 0171 417 1444 or write to them (all qualified lawyers) at the London office of GARFIELD ROBBINS, 5 WORMWOOD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1TQ. Call Evenings/Weekends 0410 545 588 Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: helenb@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

TAYLOR WALTON SOLICITORS

Reach for the Top

Taylor Walton is a progressive and substantial practice based in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, providing specialist advice to a wide range of commercial and private clients and is now perfectly positioned for sustained growth through the Millennium. The firm has more than doubled, both in terms of headcount and turnover over the last five years and has recently invested heavily in state of the art technology.

The firm now seeks to recruit a number of lawyers to join three key departments:

Company/Commercial

Having over the last twelve months, completed M&As worth over £100m and expanded into the fields of information technology, construction, intellectual property and corporate finance, the department now requires two solicitors NQ-2PQE to join its fast moving and marketing orientated team.

Commercial Litigation

Acting for corporate and private clients, the department handles professional negligence, contractual disputes, L&T, and contentious probate and insolvency matters. Two solicitors are sought; one with 1-3PQE, the other more senior, with 3-5PQE.

Private Client

Advising on inter vivos capital tax planning, the formation of trusts, inheritance tax planning in particular, to company directors and retired high net worth individuals. The department now urgently seeks a NQ or experienced legal executive and a solicitor with c 3PQE.

The successful candidates will be offered excellent remuneration packages and the benefit of the firm's ever growing stature within the legal profession. For a confidential discussion, contact Marian Lloyd-Jones

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES LEGAL RECRUITMENT

127 Cheapside London EC2V 6BT Tel 0171 600 1690 Fax 0171 600 1972 info@lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk www.lipsonlloyd-jones.co.uk

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No. c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

Newly-qualified Lawyer Legal & Business Affairs

Pearson Television is one of the largest independent television producers in the world, responsible for 150 programmes in 30 countries.

We are now looking to recruit a March qualifier, who preferably has had a media seat during training. Content provision is increasingly important in a multi-channel age, and so a rigorous approach to legal and business affairs is required.

Applications should be sent to Alex Lee, Head of Legal & Business Affairs, Worldwide Productions, Pearson Television, 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PJ.

We believe in equality of opportunity and employ people solely on the basis of their abilities.

Pensions Lawyer Hampshire or Bristol - Package to £70,000 +

Our client is a major player in financial services with a national reach. We seek a modern minded practitioner to expand the existing pension services work and to provide support to the corporate and financial services departments.

This important appointment is as Head of Unit. It will probably be made at senior level but, as partner support is available, our client's strategy could be satisfied by a younger lawyer of the right calibre seeking a fast track.

Forward your CV in confidence or call for more information. Macdonald & Company, Recruitment, Donhead House, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury, SP7 9EB. Tel. 01747 828337 Fax 01747 828347 Email: help@macdonald.co.uk

UCB Healthcare In-House Legal Counsel - Sutton

UCB Healthcare is a market leader in the provision of finance to the care industry. Over the last fifteen years it has established a reputation for innovative lending and funds circa 1000 care homes throughout the UK.

It now seeks to make the first time appointment of an In-House Legal Counsel who will report directly to the Chief Executive. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years' post qualification experience gained either in private practice or in a similar finance based industry. Suitable applicants will have exposure to either company/commercial or banking work and be able to clearly demonstrate a 'can do' attitude. The work is broad ranging and covers banking/finance, company/commercial, employment and IP/IT matters.

The successful candidate will become an intrinsic part of the business and be able to present concise commercial advice to all levels of seniority. A full in-house benefits package is offered.

For more information in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants: Deborah Karkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844 or write to them at 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 3HL. Fax: 0171 600 1793. Email: banking@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

All direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Chambers Banking & Finance

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wakefield banking on survival

By Christopher Irvine

THEY were taking the floodlights down at Belle Vue yesterday, which looked an ominous sign, but it was to replace dud bulbs. Crumbling terraces are being patched up and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats, who qualify already as the biggest mouthful in the JJB Super League, are as ready as they can be for their re-entry to the top flight on Sunday.

The compromise of having two nicknames sums up the problem of being caught between the old and new at Wakefield, a founding member of the Northern Union in 1895. Do supporters shout for "Trinity", "Wildcats" or plain old "Wakey"? More worryingly, will there be a team to support after what is widely seen as a make-or-break season?

Andy Kelly, the Wakefield coach and one of the few recognisable faces left after an overhaul that was designed to ensure competitiveness, is under no illusions. "The first target has to be survival," he said. "That's vital not only to the players and me as coach, but to the club's existence." Sainsbury's has faith. Yesterday, the supermarket chain announced a joint sponsorship over two years in a £600,000 deal with a local shopping centre.

Wakefield's fellow Super League clubs, who each receive £750,000 annually under their revised television contract, have left them to get by on £575,000 from their former

first division colleagues and the Rugby Football League (RFL). Wakefield are at a further disadvantage. As things stand, they will receive no television income from 2000 if they remain in the Super League, a situation that highlights the difficulties associated with their promotion.

When the independent franchise panel granted Wakefield's application in November – their right after winning the 1998 first division championship – Super League clubs were not leaping for joy at the prospect of welcoming a club where time had stood still.

Wakefield's opening fixture is away to Castleford Tigers. The last time they met, at the height of the Super League mergers debacle in 1995, Castleford won by a record 86-0. It was proposed at the time that Wakefield, Castleford and Featherstone Rovers should amalgamate to form a team called Calder. It never materialised.

Work on Wakefield's proposed new 10,000-capacity stadium at Ossett could start in August, but, as one club official acknowledged, "relegation would set us back two years". Wakefield would have to bounce back immediately and, by then, the Super League could be a closed shop. It places a huge burden on finishing higher than fourteen.

With experienced players such as Tony Kemp, signed from Leeds Rhinos, Kelly said: "We've gone for depth of character. Players who aren't averse to rolling their sleeves up." That summed up the Wildcats' Silk Cut Challenge Cup exit on Sunday. "Considering Bradford walloped us by 60 points pre-season, we fought well for 70 minutes and lost 26-8," Kelly said. "That's progress in a short time. We'll only improve."

□ The Lincoln Financial Group is to continue its sponsorship of the Great Britain team in the inaugural Tri-Nations tournament against Australia and New Zealand this autumn.



Kelly: character

Throwing away a slice of history

David Powell on a rule change that threatens to erase the exploits of a cherished Olympian

Denise Lewis may just win the heptathlon world championship in Seville this summer. She may even register the highest score of the year, just as she did in 1998, when she won European and Commonwealth titles. If she does, the golden girl of British sport will have more reason than most to stay up until midnight on December 31 to celebrate the millennium.

When the clock strikes 12, Lewis could be the new world record-holder for her event. Whether she should consider it worthy of celebration will depend on how she views the insensitive decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to wipe out Jackie Joyner-Kersey's existing world record at the end of the year.

This is not because, belatedly, Joyner-Kersey has been found guilty of any drugs offence. In the manner of Ben Johnson. After Johnson failed a drugs test at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, he was not only stripped of the 100 metres gold medal and world record, but, one year later, the IAAF erased the world record that he had set at the 1987 world championships. Joyner-Kersey's record is being dropped for no better reason than a minor alteration to the specifications of the women's javelin.

This is not an unimportant world record, one of the many that are set today, forgotten tomorrow – it is one that was set at an Olympic Games 11 years ago by the most successful woman all-rounder the world has seen. "It is imprudent, although I suppose I could say idiotic, for track and field to remove from the record books one of its most cherished names," Craig Masback, the executive director of USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body in the United States, said.

The significance of the record was emphasised by the attitude of American television at the time. The final event, the 800 metres, was scheduled to take place 15



Joyner-Kersey, one of the greatest Olympic competitors of them all, prepares to throw the javelin on her way to rewriting the record books at Seoul in 1988

minutes after NBC went off air, but the channel decided to stay with the action to see if Joyner-Kersey could create history. She duly delivered a score of 7,291 points.

Performances with the new javelin, with the centre of gravity moved three centimetres forward to allow more regular landings on the tip, will be kept from April 1. The best mark by December 31 will become the new world record from January 1, 2000. The change to the javelin is likely to reduce distances achieved by the best heptath-

letes by a mere three to four metres, a loss of 50 to 60 points. Had Joyner-Kersey been using the new javelin in Seoul, she would still have scored more than 7,200 points.

As Richard Hymans, the joint-compiler of the IAAF book *Progression of World Best Performances and Official IAAF World Records*, said: "Quite clearly, there is no one around who can score over 7,000 points and yet somebody may be credited with a world record for an inferior performance." Lewis's

British record is 6,736 points and, while 7,000 may soon be within range, 7,200 may be beyond her this season.

Masback added: "The way it is being seen by the American public is that here you have one of track and field's all-time greats and some bureaucrats in Monaco have chosen, for their own purposes, to make it so that she is not a world record-holder."

USA Track and Field is planning a protest to the IAAF and, to understand its indignation, think back to Daley Thompson. How

'Someone may be credited with a record for an inferior performance'

would Great Britain have reacted if the same had happened to him? "The bizarre thing here is that Daley Thompson's record was not expunged when the men's javelin specification was changed in 1986," Hymans said. "The only argument I can think they might use is that, in the case of ten events, the proportional effect on the score would be that bit less than on seven events, which is a weak argument." Hymans favours the less drastic measure of revising Joyner-Kersey's score by downgrading old javelin marks by 5 per cent.

Nobody disagrees with the need for the new specification to implement and the move has done the women's javelin, as a single event, a huge favour. Rarely these days does a woman manage to throw beyond 70 metres, while the world record stands at 80 metres. That mark, set by Petra Felke in 1988, is one of several left over from the era of institutionalised drug-taking in East German sport.

Furthermore, it is among the records that have prompted Professor Helmut Digel, the German federation president, to set before the IAAF congress next summer a proposal calling for a clean slate on world records from January, 2000. Carl Gustav Tollenaar, chairman of the IAAF technical committee, said that no other world record changes were under discussion – but insisted that the women's javelin had to be altered. "The 600g [javelin] lands flat and it is hard for the judges to maintain a fair competition," Tollenaar said. "With the new javelin, the girls would not be able to break the world record. This makes it fair for today's girls."

But not fair for yesterday's girl. Joyner-Kersey finished second behind Lewis in the world rankings last year and has just retired. When she made that decision, little could she have imagined that her world record would go into retirement with her.

Athletes welcome English centres for elite

By John Goodbody

LEADING British competitors yesterday hailed the Government's launch of a £160 million regional network of sports facilities.

England will have ten centres, plus one in Sheffield for sports medicine and research, to help realise a projected tally of 41 medals for Great Britain, including eight gold, at the 2004 Olympic Games. The ten English centres are: Bath, Southampton, Crystal Palace, Bisham Abbey, Bedford, Loughborough/Nottingham, Lillleshall, Sheffield, Manchester and Gateshead. Similar centres are being set up in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Paul Palmer, who won a swimming silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle at the Atlanta Games, is training already at Bath, where a training village was opened in 1997. He said: "Before, I was doing it despite the system, but at Bath the elite can get the necessary backing in physiology, psychology and sports medicine."

The network will be linked to the world-class performance programme, which has provided £30 million over the past 18 months to fund competitors. Speaking yesterday from Australia, where he is training, Darren Campbell, the European 100 metres champion, said: "The backing has enabled me to train full-time and helped me go the European championships last year in the best shape I could be."

The facilities, funded by the National Lottery, will allow competitors to train close to their homes, rather than many of them living at one enormous site, as had been envisaged by John Major, when he announced the scheme in 1995.

However, the Conservative party said yesterday that the announcement was a "classic example of too little, too late". Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, said: "We are not hankering after the original vision. However, so much time has passed and the announcement will be of no value before the next Olympics. This is a national project to win gold medals. The Government has a key role to play, but there is no direction and leadership."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

SAVE 20% AT THE PIER



Today, The Times gives you the opportunity to save 20% on your shopping bill when you spend £20 or more in a single transaction at The Pier. The offer is available from Sunday, March 7 until Monday, April 5 at all 18 stores of The Pier nationwide.

To qualify for the 20% discount, attach four differently numbered tokens to the card which was inserted in yesterday's paper and present them in store. If you spend £50 or more with this voucher you receive a second 20% discount voucher to use at a later date. Choose from The Pier's extensive range of furniture, textiles, tableware, accessories and gifts for your home and garden. Many of the designs are handmade and exclusive to The Pier and come in three distinct looks for this spring/summer.

For a mail order catalogue call 0171-814 5090. If the card was not inserted with your Times yesterday, please call 0171-481 3377 between 9.30am-5pm up to Friday, March 5.

20% off
the
PIER
THE TIMES
Save 20% with this card

Cut the cost of shopping with your Times Pier card, inserted in yesterday's paper



CHANGING TIMES



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the United States they take the matter of masterpoints (those little pieces of paper you win when you do well in duplicate tournaments) rather more seriously than we do over here. Paul Soloway, one of the top American players, has recently achieved the notable milestone of 50,000 masterpoints, the first person in the history of the American game to do so. Soloway, a bridge professional, is an outstanding player and has recently started up a partnership with world number one, Bob Hamman. So far everything they have touched has turned to gold and apparently Soloway has not yet learned Hamman's system.

Over the next three days I will feature some fine plays by Soloway:

Dealer West	N-S game	Teams
♠ 3 ♥ 10 2 ♦ K 10 8 6 3 ♣ A Q 10 8 3	♠ Q 9 7 ♥ J 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ K 7	
♠ J 10 8 6 5 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ 8 2	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	
	♠ A K 4 ♥ A K 9 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ J 6 5 4	

S	W	N	E
3 NT	2 S (week)	Pass	3 S
5 C	All Pass	4 S	Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: two of clubs.

The play in Five Clubs on a spade lead would be challenging. A careful declarer would draw trumps and then play off the hearts first in order to get a count of the side-suits. On this occasion he would discover that West had three diamonds to East's two and would thus play West to hold the jack.

Soloway actually got a trump lead, however, and this gave him an alternative line of play. Taking the view that the lead marked East with the king of clubs, Soloway rose with the ace

and eliminated both major suits before exiting with a second trump. East won his king of clubs and had to open up diamonds or concede a ruff and discard.

Even if East had had a trump to exit with after taking his king, Soloway would have not been in a worse position than the other declarers – but a singleton trump is not often an attractive opening lead.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABA
a. The Phoenician alphabet
b. An extinct desert bird
c. A sack

GABOON
a. A small baboon
b. A forestall
c. A wood

BURTON
a. A hat
b. Stowage of luggage
c. A Western pistol

GALERE
a. A kitchen range
b. A colaric
c. A breed of carthorse

Answers on page 49



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chasing pack

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, enjoys a half-point lead over the chasing pack of Anand and Kramnik in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain. Both of these fine players have now opened their scores with victories against Peter Svidler and Michael Adams. I give these games today. White: Viswanathan Anand; Black: Peter Svidler; Linares 1999

Grünfeld Defence

1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. Nc3	d5
4. Nf3	Bg7
5. Qb3	Qc6
6. Qc4	O-O
7. e4	e6
8. e5	b5
9. Qb3	Nb7
10. h4	c5
11. e6	O-O
12. Qd1	Nb6
13. e7+	Rd7
14. h5	Nc8
15. h6	h6
16. Bc3	Bf5
17. Ng5	Rf6
18. g4	Be6
19. Ne4	Bd5
20. Qd2	Rd6
21. f3	Bxe4
22. fxe4	Nd7
23. Qh2	Nf8
24. e5	Rd7
25. Nf6	Qd5+
26. Bc2	Nee5
27. Be2	c3
28. Bxc3	b4
29. Ng7	bxc3
30. Qh6+	Kf7
31. Rd4	

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Michael Adams
Linares 1999

Nimzo-Indian Defence

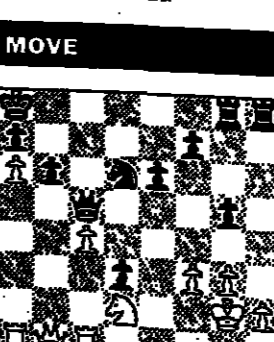
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4

Black to play. This position is from the game Marziano Van der Werf, Porto San Giorgio 1998. White's pieces find themselves in a cluster on the queenside, well away from the defence of his king. Unsurprisingly, Black now delivered a quick checkmate. Can you see how? Solution on page 49

4. Qc2	O-O
5. a3	Bxc3+
6. Qxc3	b6
7. Bg5	Be7
8. f3	b5
9. Bh4	d5
10. e3	Nbd7
11. cxd5	Nxd5
12. Bxb8	Nxc3
13. Bh4	Nd5
14. Bf2	c5
15. Bb5	Nf6
16. Ne2	e6
17. Bc4	cx4
18. Nc4	Nc5
19. Bc2	e5
20. Nf5	Rd8
21. Bh4	Nd3+
22. Ne2	Nb2
23. Rxb1	Nc4
24. Bc3	Nd6
25. Nxb6+	Kf8
26. Bb6	g6
27. Rb6	Bc8
28. Rc1	Be6
29. Rcc6	Ne7
30. e4	Nb5
31. Ke3	Nxb3
32. Nf5+	Kf8
33. Bxb6	Rd1
34. Be2	Ra3
35. Rb2	Rb3
36. h4	Nb1
37. Rd2	Nc2
38. Rd6	Black resigns

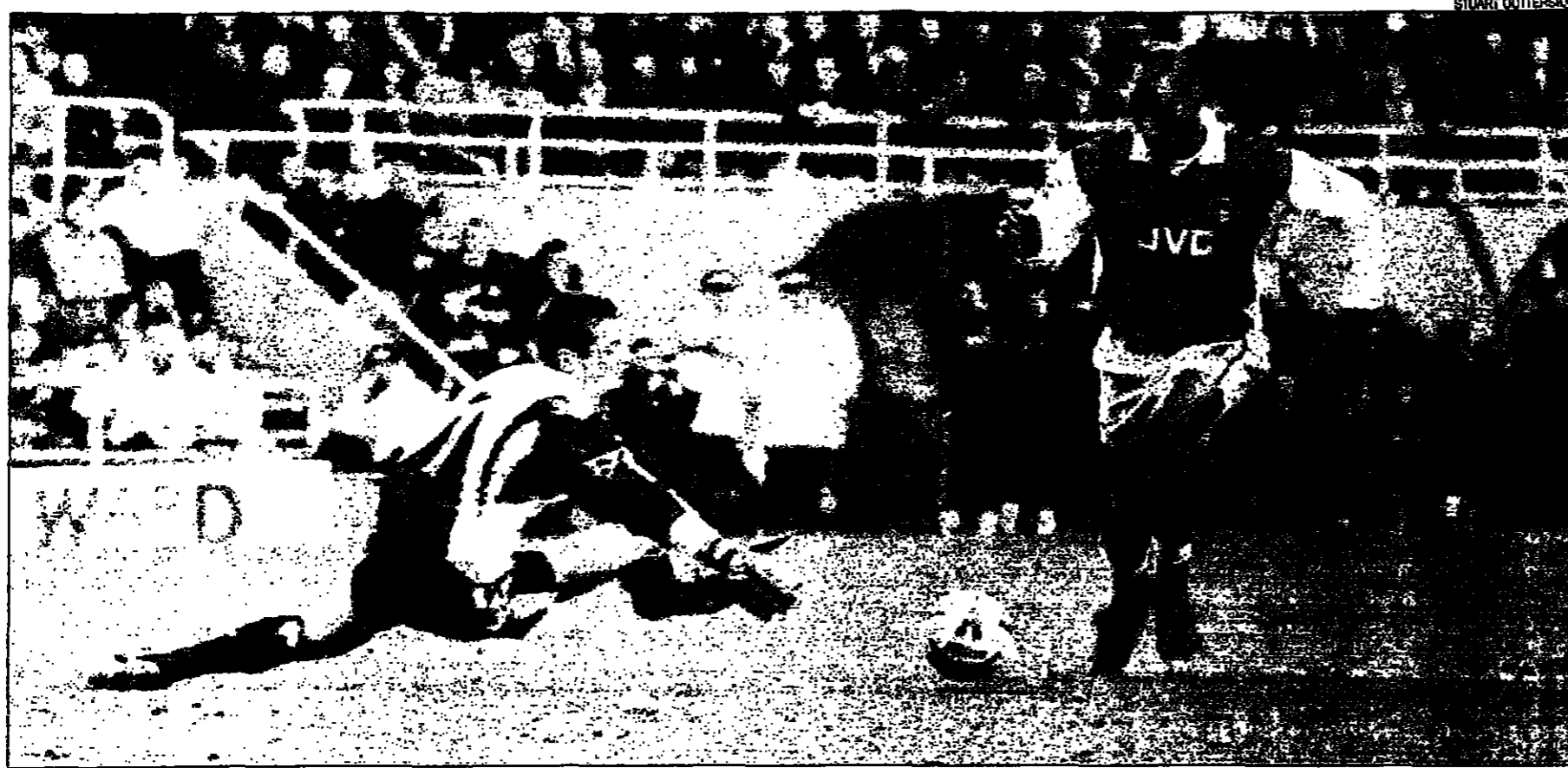


You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Anelka swerves past Given and scores Arsenal's only goal at St James' Park on Sunday. In his present form, how can any Fantasy League manager be without him?

Pearce locates target to hammer his point home

On previous FA Cup weekends, the small number of matches affecting *The Times* Fantasy League has not made it worthwhile to award weekly or ON-Target prizes. This week, however, a total of six FA Cup Premier League games are being played, so there will be no "rollover" of prizes to the following week.

Today we announce the winner of the prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of Puma sports equipment awarded to the Fantasy manager of the month, in addition to the £500 prize for the team of the week (opposite). Our aim, misguided perhaps, is to give our Fantasy player of the week award to a different player each week. The logic behind this decision is that readers of these pages probably know all they need to about stars such as Dwight Yorke, Nicolas Anelka and Andy Cole, whose regular high scoring means they are often candidates for the award; therefore we prefer to draw their attention to other, lesser-known names who might be worth a place in their Fantasy teams.

Occasionally, we permit ourselves a smug smile as one of our previous winners comes up with another sparkling seven days; on Saturday, for example, George Boateng, the Coventry City midfielder player, our award-winner a while ago, scored twice in his team's 4-1 away win over Aston Villa.

His team-mate, John Aloisi, also netted twice, and was considered for this week's title, but his first-team appearances tend to be limited, so we have picked another relatively unsung hero who is first choice for his club.

This steady central defender is one of only two players at Upton Park to hold an FA Cup Premier League winner's medal (Ian Wright, formerly with Arsenal, is the other), earned when he was in the Blackburn Rovers squad that took the title in 1995. On Saturday, Ian Pearce (for it is he) scored against his former employers, and helped keep them out at the other end, to earn six Fantasy League points.



Pearce is not a consistent goalscorer: all the more remarkable, then, that Saturday's was the second West Ham home game in succession in which he has appeared at the far post to score on open play. Against Nottingham Forest a fortnight ago, he volleyed in a Frank Lampard cross from the left, and against Blackburn, met a far post cross from Paolo Di Canio on the right to send a header past John Filan. When Rovers launched their comeback attempt in the second half, he stood firm in his usual position on the right of the back three.

Pearce began his career with Chelsea and made four appearances as substitute before joining Blackburn for £300,000 in 1993. Almost four years later, his value

had increased to £1,600,000 when he arrived at Upton Park, but that still represents a bargain buy by Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, who has seen the reliable Pearce help his side into contention for European qualification. Inflation and his consistent level of performance in a winning team means that he will cost you £3.1 million, but for your money you are getting a sound defender who has, it seems, discovered where the goal is. For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

PRIZES

- £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final
- £20,000 to the runner-up
- £5,000 for third place
- £2,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £300 of Puma sports equipment
- £500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £300 of Puma sports equipment
- £1,250 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt
- £500 weekly On-Target prize

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or ROI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only. **TO ENTER BY PHONE** Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.



For more information, visit our website at www.fantasyleague.co.uk

As I was saying

Not much of a week coming up, is it? What do you mean? Well, the FA Cup sixth round is being played this weekend, so there isn't a lot happening on the Fantasy front.

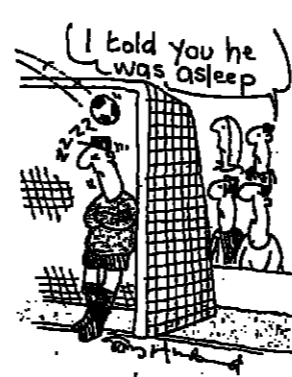
I disagree. There may only be three FA Cup Premiership games on Saturday, but plenty is going on in midweek. Hmm, I'd overlooked that. What games are on, then? Apart from last night's Leicester versus Leeds game, which counts towards next week's scores, there's Tottenham against Southampton tonight, and Sheffield Wednesday against Wimbledon tomorrow. And Leicester, Southampton and Wimbledon play again on Saturday. Exactly. So if any of those teams manage two wins, or get two clean sheets in the case of their defenders, there's a chance for some good Fantasy League scores.

And somehow I get the feeling that there might be a very clean sheet indeed at Wimbledon v Leicester on Saturday. You never know. Who would have predicted Coventry winning 4-1 away to Villa? It might be a goal feast. I should think there's more chance of goals in West Ham's game away to Southampton. For Southampton, perhaps. They've done well in that fixture recently, and Southampton have been having a good run at home.

But won't they be tired after two games in a week? And the Leicester and Wimbledon players? Since those two play each other, that should cancel itself out. That leaves one other game, by my reckoning. Who's playing? Ah, now that's a big game: Coventry at home to Charlton. A real relegation six-pointer. Coventry to walk it? Don't be too sure. Charlton have gone four games without conceding a goal. But is there anyone in any of these teams that I should be looking to sign?

On form, Charlton defenders. Someone like Carl Tiber goes up for stop-pieces, and he came very close to a goal against Forest at the weekend. He should be good for three points at least at Highfield Road.

So let me get this straight: you're making a prediction about Coventry, whose last result you admitted was completely unpredictable? Funny game, Fantasy Football.



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, value (£m)

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	NAME	CLUB	WEEKLY	TOTAL	VALUE
101	D. Seaman	ARS	28	28	2.7
102	A. Marshall	ARS	28	28	2.4
103	M. Blackburn	AST	28	28	2.5
104	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
105	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
106	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
107	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
108	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
109	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
110	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
111	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
112	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
113	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
114	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
115	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
116	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
117	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
118	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
119	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
120	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
121	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
122	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
123	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
124	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
125	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
126	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
127	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
128	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
129	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
130	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
131	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
132	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
133	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
134	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
135	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
136	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
137	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
138	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
139	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
140	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
141	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
142	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
143	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
144	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
145	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
146	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
147	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
148	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
149	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
150	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
151	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
152	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
153	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
154	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
155	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
156	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
157	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
158	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
159	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
160	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
161	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
162	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
163	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
164	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
165	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
166	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
167	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
168	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
169	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
170	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
171	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
172	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
173	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
174	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
175	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
176	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
177	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
178	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
179	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
180	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
181	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
182	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
183	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
184	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
185	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
186	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
187	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
188	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
189	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
190	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
191	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
192	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
193	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
194	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
195	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
196	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
197	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
198	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
199	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5
200	A. Smith	AST	28	28	2.5

FULL BACKS

201	P. Sarda	AST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	----------	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Anelka shoots his way to the top

The Arsenal forward appears unstoppable, but Charlton have started a revival that could have aided Fantasy League managers

If one were to select a player and a team of the month for February, there would be few arguments with the choices of Nicolas Anelka, of Arsenal, and Charlton Athletic as the team.

After a disastrous run of results that included eight defeats in succession, Charlton won three games out of four in February and did not concede a goal — equalling their best spell in the top division since the days of Sam Bartram.

Anelka had the sort of month that most players can only dream about, eclipsing even the likes of Dwight Yorke in his goalscoring; indeed, when the two went head-to-head at Old Trafford, it was Anelka who put his side ahead with an angled shot into the roof of the Stretford End net over a sprawling Peter Schmeichel, while Yorke was unable to score, seeing a late effort saved by David Seaman.

Anelka's two most memorable goals of the month, scored for France against England at Wembley, do not, of course, count towards his Fantasy League score, but there were plenty of others: the three against Leicester City at Highbury, for instance.

Anelka, however, was not the first name on the list when this month's winning Fantasy League team, Zia's Passion, was being chosen by Zia Chaudhry, of Berkshire.

Mr Chaudhry, who lives in Slough and is studying Information Technology at Langley College, supports Liverpool, and chose Michael Owen ahead of the Arsenal man. Nevertheless, Anelka was soon pencilled in, "for his shooting power and skill".

With Mr Chaudhry's team finishing the month only four points ahead of the field, the contributions of two midfield players, Dietmar Hamann, of Newcastle United, who scored the equaliser against Arsenal at St James' Park on Sunday, and George Boateng, who gained six Fantasy League points in Coventry City's 4-1 win over Aston Villa, were important.

The selection of big-money players further forward meant that there was little left over to spend on defenders, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. A bargain buy, Chris Powell, who cost only £27 million, was part of an impregnable Charlton defence in the victories against Wimbledon, Liverpool and Derby County. Powell's previous club, and the draw with Nottingham Forest last Saturday.

Powell, the former Southend United left back who arrived at The Valley from Pride Park last summer for a Charlton club record fee of



MONTHLY WINNER

ZIA'S PASSION	
S. Hisslop (WES)	4
A. Mitchell (SHR)	7
C. Powell (CHA)	14
M. Desailly (CHE)	5
J. Stam (MAN)	6
M. Izet (LEI)	0
O. Dacourt (EVE)	3
D. Hamann (NEW)	8
G. Boateng (COV)	6
N. Anelka (ARS)	13
M. Owen (LIV)	11
TOTAL POINTS: 77	

£825,000, contributed 14 points to Mr Chaudhry's total of 77, winning him £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment — a nice birthday present. If it did arrive two weeks early.

"I spent a lot of money on Anelka, Owen and some expensive midfield players, so I went for a cheap defender and I came up with him," Mr Chaudhry said.

Powell was also a member of the weekly winners, Twig's Team, chosen by Chris Meekings, of Gloucester. Mr Meekings is a supporter of Coventry City, and was delighted to see Boateng score twice at Villa Park, the six points being the largest single contribution to his team's score of 28, for which he wins £500 and £100 worth of sports equipment.

Originally, the Coventry representative in Mr Meekings' team was Dion Dublin, but a double transfer in October saw Dublin and Ian Taylor exchanged for Boateng and Yorke. Yorke was the team's second-highest scorer this week with 5, thanks to a goal and an assist against Southampton, while four other players scored three: Rio Ferdinand, Frank Leboeuf, Hamann and Efan Ekoku.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



After more than five seasons of keeping them out for Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United, Ian Pearce has suddenly discovered the knack of knocking them in at the other end. On Saturday, his old mates from Ewood Park found out for themselves as Pearce scored six Fantasy League points

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabod United	319
2	Sarbjot Kohli	Junglemen	305
3	Mark Coles	Joe Public	304
4	James Kerr	Serious Squad	303
5	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	302
6	Michael Matzelschak	Banditos Darsene	298
7	Tim Gardner	Hatchester Who?	296
8	John Lettbridge	Sold At The Bar	295
9	Gerard Croxall	Super Saddlers B	294
10	David Young	Dave 10	294
11	John Humphreys	Academicals	294
12	Peter Leathes	Spike Town	294
13	Mike Truman	Tiger United	293
14	David Wise	Walsh Reserves	292
15	Robin Harbridge	Checkers Champs	292
16	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	292
17	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	291
18	Andrew James Spencer	This One's Mine	291
19	Phil Taylor	Peter 7	290
20	Lucy Crestwell	I Hate Football	289
21	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	289
22	Paul Tait	Pin-Ups 1	289
23	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys	289
24	John White	Fussgarr	288
25	Mark Taylor	Third Time Lucky	288
26	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	288
27	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	288
28	David Smith	In The City	287
29	Jason Wynt	Taffys Terrors	287
30	Nail Bradbrook	Chapelton Elm	287
31	Kevie Styles	Charnetown John	286
32	Alan Featherstone	Larkfieldpeart	285
33	Henry Cosgrove	Top Class Reject	284
34	John Green	Chicken Chasers	284
35	Paul Hetherington	Nathan Hosurs	284
36	David Tilley	Tilley FC	284
37	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	284
38	Don Don Don	Don Don Don	284
39	Wendy Adamson	Man(oy) United	283
40	Colin Hood	Headstart Gunner	283
41	Iain Anderson	The Old School	283
42	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	283
43	C. Sharpe	Sunfish Stars	282
44	John Milner	Melodymaker	281
45	Joseph Barker	Jorn United	281
46	Don Bader	Don's Diamonds	281
47	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 16	281
48	Chris Styles	Minor Threat 10	281
49	Stephen Tru	Winners	281
50	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan III	280
51	Pittsfield Gables	Willesden Eleven	280
52	Dervin Sawyer	Finchleystars	280
53	Mike Anblar	Mill Stars	280
54	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	280
55	Scott's Stars	Scott's Stars	280
56	Terry Butler	El Ter's Revenge	280
57	Tommy Fidler	Real Dastard	280
58	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	280
59	Robi Kofler	Melodymaker	280
60	Sam Allport	Oxloves	279
61	Andy George	Misty's Magic Te	279
62	James Muir	James Muir	279
63	Peter Donnelly	Goals 'R Us	279
64	Tom Summers	Ganichou	279
65	Cliff Campbell	Garrys Hats	278
66	Alan Purdy	Als Bands	278
67	Mike Hawke	Holyump Yagier	278
68	Nigel Kith	Kelso Kings 9	278
69	Michael Scott	Aldershot	278
70	Nigel Byrne	Nigel's Team	278
71	David Walker	Just A Second FC	277
72	Tom Lee	The Bears FC	277
73	Andy Laidlaw	Caroline B	277
74	David Balf	Utility Team	277
75	Tommy Green	Big Bad Mols 11	276
76	Cliff Campbell	Cliff Campbell	276
77	Philip Martin	Still Vain	276
78	Stephen Anthony	Amill Mob FC	276
79	Adam Fletcher	Red Or Dead	275
80	Charles Duncan	Alans Striders	275
81	Kevin Culverhouse	Kevin's Kings	275
82	Andrew Kavanagh	Super Snipers FC	275
83	J. Prinsell	Grand Pan Pizza	275
84	Jon Shipton	Inter City 442	275
85	Paul Kibbie	Claughton Town	275
86	Dominic Galtell	Don's Demons	275
87	David Delany	The Daley XI	275
88	L. Samuels	Sparks Moseley	275
89	Brian Highdale	Dore's Deans FC	274
90	Christopher Vaneas	Aladin's Army	274
91	Graham Booth	Manchester City	274
92	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	274
93	Seamus Cleary	Super Spurs	274
94	Chris Coles	Inter Radcliffe	274
95	Geoff Clarke	Wally's Wonders 2	274
96	Nicholas Fennell	Carl's Kickers	274
97	D. B. Fisher	Filosophous	274
98	Bradley Woodbridge	Taking Candy	274
99	Andrew P. Heale	The Business	274
100	Richard Brownlie	Shortsrow	274
	Steve Wootton	Rye Plant	274
	George Millington	Wootton's Winners	274
		Survivors 6	274

Playing like Forest? Take heart and seek out the £500 prize

It may be closer to the end of the season than the beginning, but Fantasy League prizes remain up for grabs with ON-Target

Congratulations to Andrew Clarke, of Guildford, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom. Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

If YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...

-1 or 5

points?

Check your total, then ring
0870 901 4270
(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

Calls charged at national rates

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could claim the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

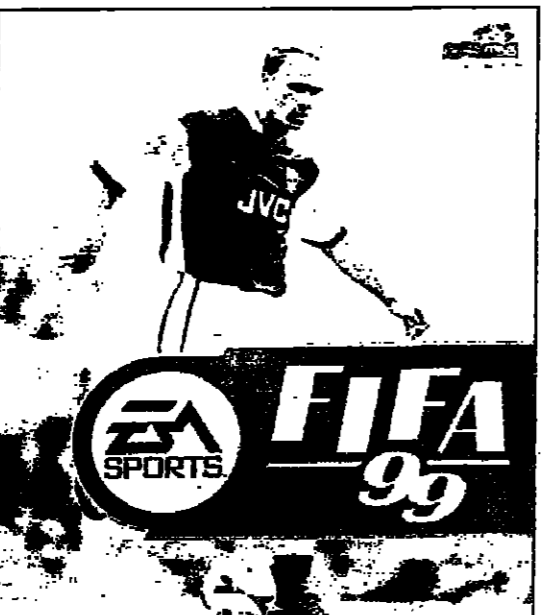
HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the check-line 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on 0870 901 4270 (calls charged at national rate, should last

about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points and called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners
This week's winners are:
Andrew Clarke of Guildford (£500 plus EA Sports Pack), D. Nash of Newcastle, Ross Mitchell of Kirkcaldy, Steven Check of Walford and Kate Daniels of Bury St Edmunds (EA Sports Packs); L. Barn of Hampton, T. Denon of Tunbridge Wells, John Mackintosh of Leiston, Suffolk, David Storr of Witley, A. Cummins of Liverpool, T. O'Brien of London N12, B. Deer of Weston-super-Mare, John Fennell of The Wirral, I. Townsend of Hemel Hempstead and David Deller of Colwyn Bay (FIFA 99 CD-Roms).



FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ



Every week, we test your football knowledge in our Fantasy Quiz. Last week, we showed you the four players whose names and numbers would add most to the price of a replica shirt: two numerals each, plus the 12 or 13 letters in the names of Nicolas Alexandersson (26), Pierre van Hooijdonk (40), Arner Gunnlaugsson (13) and Chris Bart-Williams (11). How much for a hyphen, by the way?

What do this week's four upwardly-mobile players have in common?



Bargains in midfield proving vital

MANAGERS in The Times Fantasy League seem to have varying opinions regarding the importance of their midfield. Many less experienced campaigners tend to pack their midfield with a wealth of talent, often with the likes of Beckham, Overmars and McManaman juxtaposed on their team sheet.

With a limited budget available, they are restricted to a patched-up strike force with the hope that their forwards will occasionally get themselves on the scoresheet. However, based on the evidence of the midfield statistics so far this season, it appears that this is not a wise move.

Gone are the days when Matthew Le Tissier was capable of 90 points a season; this season it has proved more

advantageous to concentrate on quality in other positions and select bargains in midfield in the hope that they pick up an assist here and there.

This can be demonstrated by the spread of points gained by players in the various positions. Goalkeeping tallies vary from 28 (Seaman and De Coey) to a miserable minus 24 (Beasant) producing a spread

of 52 points over the goalkeeping classification. Similarly, the spread in the full back category is 48 and in the centre back department, 57 points.

However, the top-scoring midfield player, Scholes, has just 31 points and as it is not possible for midfield players to score minus points, the spread of points for midfield players is only 31 — significantly lower than in other positions.

In addition to the budget constraint, managers are also restricted to purchasing one player from each Premiership club, so by having Overmars in your side, you are denied the services of a much sought-after Arsenal defender.

There are midfield players out there who are perfectly capable of accumulating a

respectable points tally without costing the Earth, who also play for a lower-profile team, thus benefiting your side in two ways.

Benito Carbone, of Sheffield Wednesday, Noel Whelan, of Coventry City, Darren Anderton, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Harry Kewell, of Leeds United, have all accumulated more than 20 points so far and will save you more than £1 million over the bigger names in midfield. For an even bigger saving, Frank Lampard, of West Ham United, Temuri Ketsbaia, of Newcastle United, and Peter Rudi, of Sheffield Wednesday, should also be considered in order to obtain funds to strengthen the defence and attack.

MATT SIMS

CHECK YOUR SCORES

TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10

1	Sarbjot Kohli	Junglemen	305
2	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	292
3	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	284
4	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	280
5	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	280
6	Tom Summers	Ganichou	279
7	Graham Booth	Manchester City	274
8	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	274
9	Daniel Lewis	It's A Puppet!	273
10	Daisy Martin	Saxham Tuesdays	273



Lampard, centre, gained six points for Junglemen during February

ROWING

Cambridge aim to hit the heights

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

BRAD CROMBIE, the Cambridge president, and Charlie Humphreys, his Oxford counterpart, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday when, at the Boat Race crew announcement, they were able to name themselves as participants in the race this year on April 3. Over the past three years, two Cambridge presidents and one from Oxford have had to confront the Press with the news that they had not made the "cut".

The Boat Race can be watched by a potential overseas audience of 400 million and the fact that ten of the 18 athletes named yesterday were non-British is likely to add to the international interest. Against that, those who argue that the Boat Race should be a nursery for Great Britain internationals should note that of the other eight, seven are already on the British international ladder, two at senior level, three at under-23 level and two among the juniors.

The only exception is Vian Sharif, the Cambridge woman cox. Add to this the fact that six competitors out of the two crews have achieved full senior international status, with five different countries, and the Boat Race can justifiably be called an international event, although it is based on a course far from international requirements.

Oxford have picked up most of the internationals this year in their quest to stop a run of six Cambridge wins and so become the first winners of the Aberdeen Asset Management Trophy. Their boat includes three former Blues — Henrik Nilsson, a Sweden international, Andrew Lindsay, of Britain, and Humphreys.

The newcomers are impressive: there are three full senior internationals in Colin von Ertzhausen, from Germany, Martin Crotty, of the United States — who was the strongest from either squad when he won the British under-23 indoor championships last November — and Morgan Crooks, of Canada. Add to these Toby Ayer, of the United States, twice an

Isis performer, and Dan Snow, the youngest man in the boat at 20, and the line-up looks solid, a fact emphasised by the fact that James Roycroft and Nick Robinson, the stroke, both members of the fast Oxford crew last year, have failed to make it. Neil O'Donnell, the American cox, earned his spurs by steering Isis to victory last year.

Cambridge have three former Blues among their number. Brad Crombie, a Canada international, is coming to his third Boat Race, having rowed on different sides in 1997 and 1998. Graham Smith, who competed for Britain at the Olympic Games in 1996, and Toby Wallace, a home-grown Cambridge product, are both in line for their second Blues.

Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, has shown his liking for height with his selection. The Cambridge line-up is the tallest ever, with Josh West, of the United States, setting an individual Boat Race record at 6ft 9in. Kieran West, an under-23 world championships gold medal-winner for Britain, is only an inch shorter, but his lean frame has strength, as his second place behind Crotty in the British indoor championships proved.

David Ellis, the second American in the Cambridge crew, came to the Light Blues' notice when his Harvard crew beat them at Henley last year. He has been forgiven and assimilated. Tim Wooge has represented Germany at under-23 level. The line-up is completed by Tom Stallard, Cambridge's youngest performer and a junior world championship bronze medal-winner for Britain in 1996.

Both crews have pace and potential, although only Oxford have shown this in public, when they beat Molesey ten days ago. The build-up crews in earnest this weekend, when Cambridge race London Rowing Club and Oxford confront Tideway Scullers. Neither coach has finalised the crew order for this, the 145th Boat Race.



Long, short and uniquely tall: Sharif, the Cambridge cox, is flanked by Kieran West, left, and Josh West, the tallest Boat Race oarsman

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY	OXFORD UNIVERSITY
*T J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus), 22, 6ft 7in, 15st 7lb (bow)	*C P A Humphreys (Hampton and Orle), 22, 6ft 3 1/2in, 13st 11lb (bow)
T A Stallard (Oundle and Jesus), 20, 6ft 3 1/2in, 13st 9lb	*L H Nilsson (Cathedral School, Lund, University of Lund and Hertford), 30, 6ft 3 1/2in, 14st 11lb
*R E B Crombie (Crescent, Toronto, McGill Univ and Peterhouse), 28, 6ft 6in, 15st 4lb	D R Snow (St Paul's and Balliol), 20, 6ft 6in, 15st 9lb
A J West (Santa Fe Preparatory, New Mexico, Yale and Oriel), 22, 6ft 9in, 15st 2lb	T H Ayer (Burlington HS, Vermont, MIT Massachusetts and Worcester), 24, 6ft 5in, 15st 9lb
D O M Ellis (Millon Acad, Harvard and Trinity), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 6lb	M Crotty (Canisius HS, Buffalo, Princeton Univ and Keble), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 12lb
K M West (Dulwich and Christ's), 21, 6ft 8in, 14st 11lb	M A L Crooks (Brentwood College, Mill Bay and St Anne's), 22, 6ft 2in, 14st 1lb
*G D O R Smith (Westminster, University College London and St Edmund's), 23, 6ft 3 1/2in, 14st 5lb	*A J R Lindsay (Eton and Brasenose), 22, 6ft 1in, 14st 3lb
T Wooge (Otto-Pankok-Schule, Dortmund Univ, Northeastern Univ, US and Magdalen), 26, 6ft 7 1/2in, 15st 4lb (stroke)	C von Ertzhausen (Gymnasium Gersheim, Dortmund Univ and Keble), 27, 6ft 4 1/2in, 15st 2lb (stroke)
Cox V Sharif (Lady Eleanor Holles and Clare), 19, 5ft, 7st 6lb	Cox N J O'Donnell (St Joseph's CI, Buffalo, Rutgers Univ and Keble), 23, 5ft 9in, 8st 8lb

*denotes Blue

The order of the crews have not been finalised

Maggert makes matchplay million

Greetings from La Costa, where Jeff Maggert chipped in from 20ft to pocket \$1 million, the biggest cheque of his life, in the inaugural Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship on Sunday. Money, money, money. "I thought about the money all day," Andrew Maggert, who lost to Maggert at the second extra hole in the 36-hole final said. Poor Maggert. He won only \$500,000.

If your pockets are deeply lined and you covet a facial for £60, La Costa is the place for you. A playground for the rich, its fairways are ringed by houses of every size and type and its changing tills and extensive facilities put one in mind of The Ritz — although when last seen, there was no one there offering to slap some goo on your face for £30 a cheek and label it "therapeutic mud that has a 40,000 year union with nature and time".

At this time of the year, the temperature varies by 40F between midnight and midday. The players in the first event of the World Golf Championships blew hot and cold, too. Though the tournament was a welcome addition to the calendar, it would benefit from some fine tuning before it returns next year.

At \$50 a day, the tickets were expensive, which might account for the comparatively small crowds. There were more spectators watching Sergio Garcia win the final of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield last summer than watched any one of the matches on the first day. There was never any difficulty in being able to see from behind the ropes, even if the match involved Tiger Woods.

One of the truisms of golf is



JOHN HOPKINS

that, in strokeplay events, the best players win those tournaments held on the most difficult courses. The course here was not difficult enough.

Ideally, it would have been better to have played one round on Friday and two on Saturday, but television wanted to build in some spare time at the weekend in case the weather was bad. That consideration apart, playing the

quarter-finals and semi-finals on Saturday would have been more exciting and might have done more to draw the crowds. A British voice, one stepped in the lore of match-play, would have added an extra dimension to the television coverage of ABC.

Nevertheless, this tournament bore out the basic truth of matchplay conducted over 18 holes, namely that it is an

imprecise science. Almost everyone had an opinion as to why there had been such a culling of seeds that the final was played between the world No 24 and No 50 in a field of 64. The most common verdict was "that's matchplay", although Steve Pate put it rather better.

"Matchplay is good for me," Pate, a losing semi-finalist, said. "I figure I've got a bet-

ter chance of beating these guys over one day than I have over four." Over a beer, Dave Musgrove, the Englishman who caddies for Lee Janzen, was asked whether the players were enjoying the event.

Musgrove rubbed his face and pondered the question. "They seemed to," he said. "All I know is how Lee and [Phil] Mickelson came off the 8th green talking and laughing to themselves about how the holes had gone first this way, then that. They liked that."

To many Americans, matchplay is incomprehensible, like cricket, the House of Lords and the geographical division of the home countries. "I'm from Wales," Ian Woosnam said when he checked in at a tournament recently. "Ah yes," the American lady said. "That's in England, right?"

The scoreboard for one early match in the tournament described the leader as being "Up one". One spectator was overheard asking another: "Why did he pick his ball up?" On the morning of the final, I heard two men talking. "Do both guys play two rounds?" one asked. "I'm not sure," came the reply. "I guess so."

The following sentence appeared in one of the most august newspapers in this country. "A definition of matchplay: If player A gets a 3 on the first hole and player B gets a 4, player B is one up after one hole." How have they explained what he was going on in the Ryder Cup?

These sort of vignettes are in danger of obscuring an important truth, however. This was an enjoyable tournament that has endured an unusual birth. It needs nourishing. It should be here to stay.



Maggert, left, celebrates with his caddy after holing the chip shot worth \$1 million

TELEVISION CHOICE

Hollywood beckons

Close Up: LA Stories
BBC2, 9.30pm

Although James Nutt and Roder Parsons' film is scrupulous in emphasising that 95 per cent of Hollywood screenwriters cannot make a living from it, and even fewer ever have a film made of their work, it seems bound to encourage winter-weary viewers at least to consider adding to the tens of thousands of Britons who now seek the American Dream in Los Angeles. We see four examples of what they can expect: one overnight success, one consistent earner who is evidently on an upward curve, one rather cavalier chap who can take it or leave it and one absolute beginner with nothing more than an idea and a bank loan. Even struggling in obscurity looks good, and the glimpses of what success can bring are seductive, even though it appears (quite accurately) that getting anywhere in LA involves a very long drive. Where did I put that plot outline I came up with?

The Bill

ITV, 8pm

The first of a three-part special, written by Scott Cherry, centres on a series of assaults on pensioners. A gang of burglars are dousing the victims in petrol and threatening to torch them unless they hand over all their money and valuables and are now carrying firearms. The aggressive DS Boulton is about to go on leave, but cancels that to take charge when he senses a possible arrest. His colleagues and juniors are less convinced that he has the right suspect, or sufficient evidence, and the subsequent trial puts a young informant in serious danger. Tonight's episode ends with PC Quinman (Andrew Paul) in critical condition after he is set upon by a gang of youths.

House Proud

BBC2, 8pm (except Scotland)

A new series, produced and directed by Robert Payton, follows the progress, over a year, of people who want to build their own homes. Tonight we meet the Shrimptons, who have a large plot of



PC Quinman (Andrew Paul) comes under attack in *The Bill* (ITV, 8pm)

land, a top-of-the-range timber-framed kit house and a well respected small local building firm: Ian Tempest, who has three old Porsches, the paddock of her mother's farm and a feng shui consultant; and the Spallards, who have quite a lot of money, part of somebody's garden and a diligent, inventive, young architect. Unlike tonight's *Close Up* film, this is unlikely to stir in viewers a longing to embark on the adventure of self-build.

Tony Patrick

Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker

Channel 4, 11.10pm

In his third and final expedition into the world of extraordinary art created by ordinary people, the pop singer visits Mexico. Cocker travels to a remote mountainous area known as Xilitla, where in 1945 Edward James, a wealthy Englishman and friend of Salvador Dali, decided to build a Surrealist world of his own. What remains is a bizarre collection of buildings, gardens, fountains and statues which Cocker casts as a fine example of his Outsider Art. The singer then pops to Zurich and to the home of one Bruno Weber. His gardens are filled with mosaic creatures including a pair of brightly decorated "snake bridges". Ian Hughes

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry

Radio 4, 2.15pm

If you would not mind if you never heard the word counselling again, this is for you. It is also for anyone wishing to hear a virtuoso acting performance, which is what we get from Sue Johnston in this monologue. Char March's first play for radio (but hopefully not her last). Johnston plays Deborah Smith, an ordinary woman from Barnsley who has reached a point in her life where she is emotionally wrung out. Her instinct seems to be against finding help, but she does so anyway and fetches up at a counselling centre in Oldham, in a room overlooking a municipal green, which is "as nurtured as a roundabout". Such witty observation lessens what is a poignant, compelling commentary on our times.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Rock 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits 8.00 The Sports Zone 9.00 The Breakfast Show 10.00 John Peel 12.00am The Breakfast Show 2.00 Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jeff Moe 2.00 Ed Sheeran 3.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits 8.00 The Sports Zone 9.00 The Breakfast Show 10.00 John Peel 12.00am The Breakfast Show 2.00 Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruscov and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match: Action from tonight's Nationwide League programme, including Barnsley v Bradford, Birmingham City v Norwich City and Ipswich Town v Weymouth. Plus updates on the evening's UEFA Cup quarter-final matches 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boy Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00pm Crime Beat 1.00 Anna Ransom 4.00 The Sports Zone 5.00 Cheating Heats 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 5.45 Pete and Geoff 1.00am James Merritt 1.00am Steve Power 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny 9.00 Masterworks Includes Verdi (Overture: The Force of Destiny); Paganini (La sieghe); Brahms (Alo Rhapsody for Soloist and Piano) 10.00 Night 10.30 Artist of the Week: Bernard Haitink 11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Shostakovich 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins and Osmo Vänskä, Pekka Kuusisto, violin 4.00 Voices Simon Keenlyside (s) 4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty, includes Albertz (Suite: Iberia); Copland (Clarinet Concerto) 7.00 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Centenary) Live from the Festival Hall, London, Ensemble

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today 6.00 Today 6.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Unreliable Evidence with Clive Anderson 9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Baker peruses The Journal 9.45 (FM) Serials: Zarala (2/5) 10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney 11.00 Nature with Howard Staibler (s) 11.20 Coming Alive by Jim Edey (s) 12.00pm (LW) News Features: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.30 My Milestone Music 2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (s) 2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry 3.00 The Exchange 0870 010 0444 3.30 First Night (s) 3.45 This Scintillating Tale (s)

4.00 The Learning Curve with the Times columnist Libby Purves 4.30 Shop Talk 5.00 PM with Chris English and Chris Lowe 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Mamma Mia! 7.00 The Archers Pat refuses to stay put 7.15 Front Row with Francine Stock 7.45 The City of the Bittern (s) 8.00 File on 4 8.40 In Touch with Peter White 9.00 Virus: The Unseen Enemy See Choice (1/4) 9.30 Unreliable Evidence (s) 10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises (s) 11.00 Late Night on 4: The Alan Davies Show (s) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films 12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book Five Stories by Anton Chekhov — A Play (s) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 695, 903. WORLD SERVICE. MW 645; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

CRUISES FROM £16,570. CALL 0800 110 110.

Registration has arrived, so now's the time to test drive a Freelander. Call us or visit www.landrover.co.uk Model shown 5Dr 1.8XEi £21,159.

مکان الهم

REVIEW

hosted by a tuxedoed Te-
Celine Dion. These in turn
spawned their own unexpected
Titanic consequences, including
(a) more Britons choosing Celine
Dion singing the theme tune to the
movie, *Titanic*, as their preferred
choice of music at their weddings
and (b) world-famous sensation
Kate Winslet's bodyweight.

Not to worry, the unexpected
consequences in *Tribute: The
Band of the Car Park*, a new BBC
series about the way young people
lead their lives; the main unexpected
consequence being that too many
young boys and girls who too often
in their cot's might one day grow
up into teenagers like Matthew
and his pals, who think that
spending your evenings in the
McDonald's car park in Harlow
Earning the bread off your back
can't be such an enthralling
life. Even Graham's life has
more snare for it than this.

Yet, the more unexpected consequences in *Tribe: The King of The Car Park*, a new BBC series about the way young people lead their lives; the main unexpected consequence being that those young boys and girls you coo over in their cot's might one day grow up into teenagers like Matthew and his pals, who think that spending your evenings in the McDonald's car park in Harlow, Essex, is the way to live. Learning the tread off your dad's car tyres constitutes an enthralling social life. Even Graham's life has more going for it than this.



The plot? It's as carefully arranged as an ambassador's dining table. Twists, tensions, bonds and betrayals are deftly woven together so that their repercussions are rarely Tannoyed to us in advance. Even when we know that Alan will have to pay a price after confessing to his wife about

But you would never have dreamed that in the final scene it would be Terry's wife's body smashing against the Corniche's windscreens as Alan accidentally hits her in his rush to the police station to sort out the arrest of his daughter for trespass. It's like playing chase the lady with a card-sharp and being caught napping, again and again. Staggeringly good.

earn: The battle for Titanic — which seemed to lend support to Lew Grade's conclusion that when it comes to raising *Titanic* it can work out to be far less trouble lowering the Atlantic — Ballard likened it to "stripping the old lady of her jewellery in her grave".

Ballard clearly had no idea that his discovery would result in greed, obsession, Cold War intrigue, a cheesy TV special featuring some of the renowned relics

lead their lives; the main unexpected consequence being that those young boys and girls you coo over in their cots might one day grow up into teenagers like Martha and his pals, who think that spending your evenings in the McDonald's car park in Harlow, learning the tread off your dad's car tyres constitutes an enthralling social life. Even Graham's life has more going for it than this.

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (7408294)
7.00 World/World Part eight. Integral special needs pupils in mainstream education (T) (8325227)
7.30 Millanrose (2944753)
7.35 Wendy's House (4823482)
8.00 Newsnight (2948005)
8.30 Dappledawn Farm (T) (2045376)
9.00 Instant Gardens (A14) (T) (265698)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4605024)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (3835163)
10.20 Sunset Beach Maria learns her mother will return (T) (3892666)
11.10 Looza (4045555)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2049192)
12.30 Family Affairs Claire wakes up battered and bruised (T) (1427314)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Claire breaks his deal with Jack (T) (832659)

1.30 **The Roseanne Show** (TV) Entertainment and chat: 5 News Update (1426965)
2.00 **100 Per Cent** (TV) (9305314)
2.30 **Good Afternoon Lifestyle** magazine: News Update (1930802)
3.30 **Joshua's Heart** (TV) (1990) Emotional drama about a woman who leaves boyfriend, but can't bear to be parted from his son. Melissa Gilbert and Matthew star. Directed by Mel Preman (T) (8985799)
4.00 **Sunset Beach Show** earlier (T) 11 News Update (3976192)
5.00 **100 Per Cent** Computer-generated (2648395)
6.30 **Family Affairs** Clare apologizes provoking Peta (T) (2630647)
7.00 **5 News: Weather Round-up** of the day's weather (T) (9305782)
7.30 **Champion of the North** Conserving natural habitat of the Canadian grizzly bear (T): 5 News Update (2629531)
8.00 **Crime Report** Includes a report Albert Wilson, the Dover man on the row in the Philippines (2/6) (9385560)
8.30 **What's the Story?** Vanessa Collingridge investigates the issues surrounding dangerous drivers and the appropriate punishments for offenders and safety measures to reduce the death toll: 5 News Update (9304685)
9.00 **Memphis Belle** (1990) Second World War drama charting the exploits of the famous bomber crew. The men who will all be going home if they manage to complete their 25th and final mission over Germany successfully. Starring Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, Jon Lithgow, Harry Connick Jr. Tote Jones and Billy Zane. Directed by Michael Catton-Jones (T): 5 News Update (8740208)
11.00 **Two Bitch** lands Gus in trouble with the IRA. British Intelligence and the FBI Drama, starring Michael Easton (12754821)
11.55 **The Jack** Directed Show With music by the Spherophonics (8106844)
12.35 **Live** and Dangerous Sports magazine (58046048)
3.45 **Asian Football Show** Weekly round-up (7842241)
4.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H** Ann receives death threat (7330154)
5.30 **100 Per Cent** (TV) (8004661)

[illegible]

STORY

ing 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.25
nos 8.38 Tiny Toes 8.35 Tiny and

Direct Marketing - Co-Op Pop

!



ATHLETICS 44

Why the millennium could make a world of difference to Lewis

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

ROWING 50

Sharif faces up to a tall order in the Boat Race



Atherton and Thorpe among quartet given fortnight to prove fitness

England set World Cup deadline

BY RICHARD HOBSON

ALTHOUGH England became the first of the Test-playing countries to announce their squad for the World Cup yesterday, the 15 players named by David Graveney may not be those who open the tournament against Sri Lanka on May 14. In effect, the party amounts to little more than a declaration of hope and intent.

Four of those chosen — Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin — will undergo fitness tests within the next fortnight and if any of the quartet fails what Graveney described as "a rigorous assessment", a replacement will be announced on March 15.

The selectors have decided

SQUAD

A J Stewart (Surrey), captain, M A Atherton (Lancashire), I D Austin (Leicestershire), R D B Croft (Gloucestershire), M A Ballman (Kent), M H Fairbrother (Lancashire), A Flintoff (Lancashire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), D Gough (Yorkshire), G A Hick (Worcestershire), A J Hone (Surrey), W V Knight (Warwickshire), A D Mitchell (Leicestershire), G P Thorpe (Surrey), V P Wallis (Leicestershire).

to issue this early deadline even though the final 15 does not have to be lodged until March 31. There is still the provision to replace anybody injured during the Champions' Cup in Sharjah, a triangular tournament involving India, Pakistan and England, from April 8 to 16.

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "On March 15 it will not be good enough to say: 'Oh well, they'll be alright in four or five weeks' time. If there is any doubt at all, we cannot afford to fudge the issue because the competition is too important. The frequency with which Atherton's back has been flaring up was considered, but he will be rested over a number of days and we are confident he will come through it."

The squad leaving for Sharjah via Pakistan on March 29 contains ten players who featured in the recent one-day series in Australia, plus Atherton, Thorpe, Austin, Andrew Flintoff and Angus Fraser. Vince Wells will act as the reserve wicketkeeper to Alec Stewart, the captain. Those who can consider themselves



Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said that no risks would be taken with players' fitness when he announced the squad yesterday. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

unlucky to have been omitted are Nasser Hussain and Dean Headley. Both were prominent in Australia and Graveney telephoned Hussain, as well as Mark Alleyne and Mark Ramprakash, to explain the decision yesterday morning. The omission of Hick, Giles means that Graham Hick will support Robert Croft in the spinner's role.

Graveney said that Atherton's back problem is different from the one that troubled him in Australia. As for Thorpe, he began a programme of rehabilitation specifically geared towards the World Cup when he left the tour before the third Test match in Adelaide.

With the exception of Hick, the batting left much to be desired in the subsequent one-day games. Fairbrother has become increasingly prone to hamstring problems while Austin has undergone a knee operation.

The white ball used for the tournament is notorious for swinging and scaming more than the red variety and Atherton's ability to work singles provides an alternative to batsmen who prefer to hit through the line. The latter group will struggle on overcast mornings. Equally, Fraser and Austin have been chosen to exploit these conditions.

Graveney said: "There were areas of our batting that caused concern in Australia. Atherton's record in this coun-

try is impressive and Thorpe's absence from the middle order has been a big loss in five-day and one-day cricket. To go back to... two of our most experienced players makes sense."

Compared with the well-

Flintoff makes most of slim tour chance

FIGURES have not always been kind to Andrew Flintoff. When he last played for England, in the final Test match against South Africa at Headingley, he failed to score a run or take a wicket (Thrasy Petropoulos writes).

Of greater concern was the condition of his lower back, which, with the excess weight he was carrying, had restricted his bowling. Flintoff probably benefited from having been omitted from the winter Test and one-day tour parties

but he acknowledged that "our fielding will have to be up by 5 or 10 per cent".

Flintoff, 21, the Lancashire all-rounder, is uncapped at one-day level but he made two Test appearances against South Africa last summer. He owes his selection to an impressive A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa, the decline of Ben Hollioake and the unpredictability of Chris Lewis. The decision occupied a good proportion of a meeting lasting six hours.

"We have lost six of our past seven one-day games and we felt that a new, young player was the right way to go," Graveney said. "We had to point out to him at the end of last summer the levels of fitness required to play international cricket. People who have seen him in domestic cricket have no doubt about his ability. He has lost weight and done what we asked. He gives us another option at No 6 and could open the batting."

Competition rules on the re-

placement of players come into force on May 2. After that date, a tournament panel of three doctors must assess any injury before approving a change and the unfit player will not be allowed to return to the squad. England have been led to believe that they can replace somebody even if the injury is a recurrence of an old problem. In other words, Atherton could still be withdrawn during the tournament if his back flares up again, however many fitness tests he passes beforehand.

Cork back in field, page 49
Slater left out, page 49

FA asks to view Le Saux video

BY MATT DICKINSON AND STEPHEN WOOD

GRAEME LE SAUX'S hopes of avoiding detection and punishment for his sly assault on Robbie Fowler in the FA Cup Premier League match between Chelsea and Liverpool last Saturday were foiled yesterday when the Football Association asked the BBC for its videotape of the incident, in which the Chelsea defender appeared to elbow his Liverpool opponent in the back of the head.

The England full back can expect the minimum punishment of a three-match ban, but there will have been surprise and disappointment at Anfield last night at the revelation that Fowler is also likely to face action. Gerard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has also been charged with misconduct for remarks that he was said to have made about Mike Read, the referee, who sent off Jamie Carragher in a match at The Valley last month, in which Charlton Athletic beat Liverpool 1-0.

Fowler, who was booked for a foul on Le Saux on Saturday, further enraged his opponent by turning his back on him at the subsequent free kick and then sticking out his backside. The FA may deem Fowler's taunting actions worthy of punishment, although he is unlikely to receive worse than a fine. Le Saux, who was cautioned for time-wasting during Chelsea's 2-1 victory, has little chance of getting off as lightly after another episode that has exposed how brittle his temper can be.

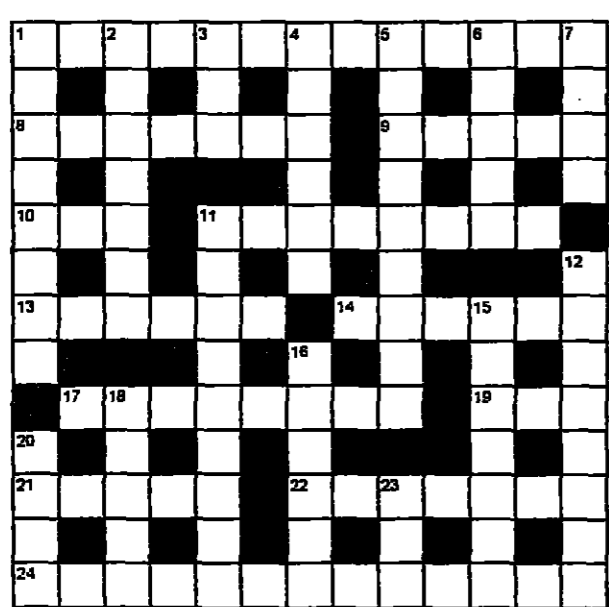
Hot-headed enough to punch David Barry, a Blackburn Rovers team-mate, during a European Cup match, Le Saux is not quite the aesthetically thinking man's footballer that he is often portrayed to be. He was also dismissed earlier this season after a brawl with Sébastien Pérez at Ewood Park.

Fortunately for Chelsea, who are facing mounting disciplinary problems, any sentence imposed on Le Saux will not start until well after the FA Cup quarter-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford next Sunday, a game from which Frank Leboeuf, Dennis Wise and Celestine Babayaro will be missing.

Giuseppe Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, is due to start a three-match suspension next week.

Rossini out, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1654

ACROSS

- 1 Getting one's way in tiny steps (6,7)
- 8 Back of skull (7)
- 9 Strange non-citizen (5)
- 10 Prohibit (3)
- 11 Creator, not supreme, god (8)
- 13 Disinclined (to) (6)
- 14 Senseless destroyer (8)
- 17 Charming, captivating (8)
- 19 Saucerless cup; one swindled (3)
- 21 Ballade final stanza (5)
- 22 Approve; sign back of cheque (7)
- 24 Sit down at last (3,4,4,2)

DOWN

- 1 Pleasure craft; Kern musical (4,4)
- 2 A permit (7)
- 3 Geog. plan (5)
- 4 Jap. matting (6)
- 5 (Liquid) solidify (9)
- 6 Sugary cake topping (5)
- 7 Slowly go down (4)
- 11 Abandonment (9)
- 12 File of mine waste (4,4)
- 15 Blameworthy conduct (7)
- 16 Preoccupy (6)
- 20 Cannabis; plant for rope (4)
- 23 One Welsh, two Scot. rivers (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1653

- ACROSS: 8 Nairobi 9 Mensa 10 Trousseau 11 Owe
12 Logic 14 Testify 15 Pretext 17 Bambi 19 Tun
20 Teddy bear 22 Corfu 23 Confuse
DOWN: 1 Instil 2 Ciao 3 Horse chestnut 4 Divert
5 Impulse buying 6 Encomium 7 Napery 13 Greenery
15 Patch 16 Deduce 18 Israel 21 Exit

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD BOOK AVAILABLE!

The Times Two Crosswords Book 8 is now available, at £3.50 inc. p&p. Call 0900 134 459 for credit card orders, or send a cheque payable to News Books, to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth TR11 2YX

Celtic demand the dismissal of Farry over Cadete blunder

BY PHIL GORDON

FERGUS McCANN, the Celtic chairman, will walk away from the club about £40 million richer next month when he sells his shares in the former Scottish champions and leaves for Bermuda. Yet an equally prized item in his baggage might be the scalp of Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive, who was suspended by his employers yesterday as McCann basked in the glow of victory after a three-year battle to prove that Farry's negligence had cost them the services of Jorge Cadete, the Portuguese player, during the finale to the 1995-96 season.

Celtic have asked for Farry's removal as chief executive and there can be little doubt he faces a struggle to hold on to his job. The SFA halted an arbitration tribunal that had been examining the Cadete affair and released a statement yesterday, which admitted liability. It has also agreed to pay unspecified compensation to Celtic for the delays in registering Cadete in 1996.

John McBeth, the vice-president of the SFA, took barely a minute to read the statement, saying the case raised by Celtic "has been settled by the parties prior to completion of arbitration. The settlement is in favour of Celtic."

Not surprisingly, McCann

had much more to say on the subject. The Celtic chairman said that he felt vindicated, but added: "This should never have taken three years. It should have been resolved at the time."

Cadete was purchased in February 1996 from Sporting Lisbon to augment Celtic's push for the Scottish Premier League title, yet, despite the player's international transfer clearance (ITC) being received by the SFA on March 7, 1996, Cadete was still not registered in time to face Rangers in a Scottish Cup semi-final a month later.

Celtic lost that match 2-1 and pursued it as the basis of their case against the SFA, which runs the competition. However, had Cadete — who scored five goals in six games when he was finally registered for the remainder of 1995-96 season and 33 goals the next season — not been prevented from playing, he may have had an influence on the destination of the title, too.

Celtic lost the league to Rangers by four points, a margin that would have been markedly reduced had they defeated their rivals in a league match on March 17, instead of drawing 1-1.

Farry: Investigation



McCann vindicated

At the time, Celtic were told that Cadete's ITC was invalid. However, FIFA, the game's governing body, sent Farry a fax reaffirming that it was valid. Incidentally, a subsequent SFA inquiry absolved Farry of any blame.

Celtic's statement said yesterday that "Mr Farry's position is untenable" and that "he cannot be allowed to hold an exercise such powerful authority".

McCann would not comment on whether Farry had acted out of bias towards Rangers. "I would not want to attribute motives," he said. "However, there is no question that what happened was with intent. Whether that was obstinacy, incompetence or malice, I will leave up to you."

Farry also issued a statement yesterday, saying he was "co-operating with my employers in an additional investigation into issues raised by the dispute." There was no public apology from the SFA. It had undertaken that task earlier in the day, with a letter to Celtic from McBeth, stating that "as a consequence of failures by the chief executive... the registration had not progressed as it ought. The SFA acknowledges that had registration been given, the player [Cadete] would have been available to play against Rangers."

OUR LOWEST LINE RENTAL

This offer is exclusive to ODYSSEY

£12.99 PER MONTH (including VAT)

Normally £19.99 per month. SAVE £84 per year

and not 20 but 100 minutes of FREE calls per month

- FREE Ericsson GA626 GSM phone (Selling £10)
- FREE 100 minutes of off peak calls per month (Saves up to £20 per year)
- FREE 3 Coloured Fashion Panels (Selling £30.00)
- FREE Portable hands-free car kit (Selling £45.00)
- FREE Car charger (Selling £20.00)
- FREE Leather Case (Selling £20.00)
- FREE Next day delivery

ODYSSEY direct

Call our credit card and mobile hotline. FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
0500 74 0000
All credit cards accepted including Switch
Open Mon to Fri, 9am - 7pm, Sat 10am - 5pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm
Head Office: Odyssees Computer File 15 Old Oak Common Lane, London W3 7EL
Marketed by: ODYSSEY Ltd. VAT Total Line Rental £13.50 inc. VAT
Of peak calls 5p min. Peak calls 25p min. Peak times are 8am-7pm Mon-Fri. Subject to standard status, and availability. All prices inc. VAT. E & OE